



Standard of Care

The Gabriel Foundation® is a 501(c)(3) and 509(a)(2) non-profit corporation, licensed by the State of Colorado as a rescue and rehabilitative organization dedicated to the well being of companion parrots. The Foundation's aviary is certified by the Model Aviculture Program (MAP) although the Foundation is NOT a parrot breeding facility. Data, record keeping and biosecurity standards promoted by MAP are applicable to a parrot welfare organization. Our purpose is to serve as a research and educational model to the public-at-large, the veterinary medical community, the pet industry, humane animal welfare organizations and to the avicultural community and affiliated organizations about the need to provide appropriately for the welfare of parrots in captivity, often through rescue, rehabilitation and sanctuary programs for psittacine birds. We endeavor to generate continuing awareness of parrots throughout the world by supporting international conservation efforts that help to maintain and preserve them in their natural habitat. The Foundation currently maintains seven separate programs: educational outreach, rescue, rehabilitation, foster care, adoption, sanctuary and conservation for the needs of parrots everywhere. We believe that public EDUCATION is the tool of choice to better the quality of life of parrots in captivity and to help preserve the world's parrots in their wild habitats.

Foundation Protocols, Goals and Objectives

Incoming Birds/Intake Information & Services: to provide humane and responsible transfer of ownership for bird.

1. Client Bird History form-detailed medical and social history
2. Parrot Acquisition form-legal document transferring ownership of bird
3. Medical exam and lab work-medical criteria designed by DVM to ascertain level of health (see attached criteria)
4. TGF staff members "Bird Committee" reviews requests and determines feasibility and space availability for entry of new birds
5. Staff counseling with bird owner to facilitate possible resolution of problem that is causing the bird to lose its home
6. Relinquishment donation is encouraged

Record Keeping: to create a custom, accurate and individual record for bird.

1. Each bird has its own file where medical, emotional and physical history is recorded and tracked
2. Each bird is entered into the Foundation's database that is designed to track all information relevant to the individual bird welfare, as well as future pet parrot welfare

Quarantine: to protect from disease the resident Foundation aviary flock.

1. Average 90 days or longer, initiated after last bird enters
2. Hands on veterinary exam and blood work done (if not done before entry)
3. Daily monitoring/charting for weight, appetite and stool production
4. Enters species specific flock after health status is determined

Aviary Housing/Husbandry: to provide optimal environmental conditions to encourage and support robust birds.

1. Individual powder coated cages that are species appropriate (size & bar spacing)
2. Environmental enrichment that includes: variety of color/textures toys, fresh, non-toxic branches and a variety of perch material
3. Nutritionally dense diet that includes: whole grain mashes, fresh sprouts, fresh vegetables, fresh fruits, quality pellets, nuts and seeds
4. Cages and floors are cleaned daily with soap, water and "Enviroclean"
5. Foot bathes are located by each species room and changed daily
6. Outdoor flights are hosed down daily before birds go out to them-only water is offered outside to prevent attracting vermin. Washed river rock is used as flooring.

Rehabilitation: to diminish destructive behaviors and promote a well adjusted and content bird.

1. Nutritionally dense diets
 2. Environmental enrichment
 3. Daily hands-on interaction, socialization, and group flocking
 4. Daily outings to outdoor flights and cages
 5. On sight medical care and treatment
-

Adoption: to provide long-term, stable placements for the birds that can thrive in a human home.

1. Confidential adoption application
2. Fee for TGF membership and Client Education Packet
3. Medical information for any resident birds
4. Required visit(s) to Foundation aviary to meet birds and staff
5. Home inspections (as needed)
6. Extensive phone interviews by Committee of adopters and references
7. Adoption placement fee for bird (if approved)
8. Completed Probationary Adoption Agreement (3 month)
9. Continued scheduled follow-up/support by phone/e-mail
10. Permanent Adoption Agreement
11. Yearly follow-up questionnaire

Sanctuary: to provide permanent refuge for whatever reasons that the bird is unable to be placed in adoptive homes.

This is either by previous owner request or due to age, medical or specific behavioral issues. The Foundation has been named as Trustee for many birds in the event that their owners predecease them.

Rescue: to provide emergent intervention to remove, house or provide for the acute welfare of an individual bird or group.

Education: to improve awareness about the needs of parrots everywhere.

1. Informational programs provided to the public via aviary tours, original and reproduced printed educational packets, our website, e-mail and telephone support and counseling
2. Veterinary Network, off-site Liaison and Volunteer Network
3. Conferences, shows, articles and publications, lectures and affiliations

Education, Symposium and Avian Organization Affiliations

1. Member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians/AAV; presenter at annual conference and Co-chair in special committees; Member of the Association of Avian Rescue Organizations/AARO; Member of the World Parrot Trust/WPT; Member and Co-chair of the World Parrot Welfare Alliance/WPWA; Member of the American Federation of Aviculture/AFA; Member of the Colorado Avian Resource, Inc./CARI; Member of the Rocky Mountain Society of Aviculture/RMSA; Member of the Avicultural Society of America/ASA; Member of the Parrot Society of Australia; Member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Exhibitors/IAATA
 2. Member of the Model Aviculture Program/MAP
 3. Organizes and hosts symposium "Parrots in the New Millenium" dedicated to issues of parrot welfare from captivity to conservation
-

The Gabriel Foundation® Census Data:

Between February 1996 and February 2001, the Foundation received over 400 birds into the aviary:

- 30 +/- reside in permanent sanctuary
- 50 +/- indirect placement
- 30 +/- reside in long term foster care
- 300 +/- reside in permanent adopted homes
- 20 +/- mortality (usually caused by chronic/acute disease/depressed immune system/long term stress)

Why do birds end up in sanctuaries?

The Gabriel Foundation® Most Common Species and Reasons as of January 1, 2001		
	Admitted	Reason for Placement
Cockatiel	57	Not enough time/change of priority
Macaw (<i>Blue & Gold</i>).....	27	Behavioral/ not enough time/change of priority
Amazon (<i>Blue-fronted, Yellow-naped, Double Yellow-Headed</i>) ..	26	Rescue of Breeders/Wild caught/Behavioral
Eclectus	25	Rescue of Breeders/Behavioral/not enough time
Lovebird.....	23	Rescue of Breeders/Behavioral/not enough time
Cockatoo (<i>Moluccan</i>).....	23	Behavioral/not enough time/change of priority
Cockatoo (<i>Umbrella</i>).....	21	Behavioral/not enough time/change of priority
African Grey (<i>Congo</i>).....	19	Rescue of Breeders/Behavioral/not enough time
All other Species	189	
Total	410	325 birds have been placed between 2/1/96 - 2/1/01

The Gabriel Foundation® copyright ©2001, may not be reproduced in part or in full without the expressed written consent of The Gabriel Foundation.



Post Office Box 11477 Aspen, Colorado 81612
www.thegabrielfoundation.org · gabriel@thegabrielfoundation.org

970.963.2620

About Us: With the proliferation of psittacine birds into the pet marketplace, the issue of unwanted birds is rapidly growing. This is no longer one person's problem or even one industry's problem. It speaks to the entire issue of being responsible for anyone and anything in your life for which you have chosen stewardship. All living creatures deserve respect and kindness. Societies value birds for economic, cultural, ethical and spiritual reasons. The avicultural and pet industries must heighten public consciousness that animals are not creatures put on this earth for man to dominate, or "own," but rather they are "other nations" with which to co-exist. The disposable mentality or throwaway cultural attitude prevalent in our society does not speak well for the lives of animals often viewed as commodities that are greatly affected by this trend. They cannot fend for themselves when we do not. The Foundation receives dozens of inquiries daily from around the country because people must "get rid of their birds". The hundreds of inquiries received monthly regarding our programs demonstrate that there is an overwhelming need to provide continuing education and information to the public, the veterinary community and the avicultural industry about the physical, psychological, social, environmental, medical and nutritional needs necessary to provide for the total well being of these highly intelligent, long-lived creatures.

The challenge for veterinarians, breeders, retailers, hobbyists, welfare, rescue and sanctuary groups for companion animals is the realization that there are not enough facilities providing appropriate standards of care for the animals dependent upon their care. The Gabriel Foundation® is currently a part of a working committee of the Association of Avian Veterinarians whose task is to develop a standard of care for parrot welfare organizations, which include rescue and sanctuary groups. The Foundation is also an integral part of the WPWA (World Parrot Welfare Alliance), an international parrot welfare organization whose goal is to develop and promote greater awareness of the needs of parrots in captivity, whether in homes, rescue, sanctuary, or breeding facilities and in the retail pet trade through a set of guidelines and standards.

The current Gabriel Foundation aviary is able to provide consistent, high quality care for up to 250 psittacine birds at one time. Birds enter the Foundation for a variety of reasons such as family or financial hardship, human guardian's illness or death, conflict with spouse or children, lack of human interest and/or time, moving/relocation, a bird's incomparability with human's expectations, a bird's physical handicap, a bird's chronic illness, rescue from animal cruelty, abandonment, lost bird, or request from a pet store, animal welfare organization, veterinarian and breeders to provide on-going care.

The Foundation's Medical Director evaluates the acute, chronic and long-term medical needs of all incoming and outgoing birds. Our team of attending and affiliated veterinarians, certified veterinary technicians, staff members and volunteers provides for the total health care, as well as psychological and environmental needs. Our staff to bird ratio is crucial to the rehabilitation process of our psittacine residents, where the needs of the individual bird come first. With the in-depth quality of care that the Foundation provides, many caring and committed adoptive families and guardians provide homes for those birds who will continue to thrive in a companion pet situation through the Foundation's highly structured adoption and screening process. For those birds that remain with us for the remainder of their lives, permanent sanctuary is a safe and enriched habitat dedicated to each resident's well-being.

Position Statement: The Gabriel Foundation is pleased to support responsible and ethical breeders who implement the very best standards of care for the needs of the psittacine and parrot-like birds raised and housed in their aviaries. They are dedicated to the environmental and psychological nurturance and enrichment of these birds' lives, pursuing continuing education in the fields of aviculture, husbandry, behavior and veterinary care.

These persons take into consideration the need to make a difference in the welfare of each and every bird that they place. They provide wide-ranging educational and supportive care with the bird's lifetime welfare as its goal. They remain a continued resource for the birds and to their human caretakers that facilitates the success of the human/parrot bond.

The Gabriel Foundation believes that it is critical to the welfare of future generations of parrots to work closely with quality individual breeders, veterinarians and retailers who embrace the need to provide the public with comprehensive and accurate educational materials and information regarding the specialized needs of parrots in captivity, those kept as companions and for those needing our help to survive in the wild.

The Gabriel Foundation actively supports and endorses networking and liaison relationships with other parrot welfare organizations, mainstream animal welfare organizations, the veterinary community, the avicultural community, conservation organizations and the public at large. The Foundation's interaction and involvement with other organizations is to endeavor to work cohesively to promote educational outreach and to establish a prevailing responsible and quality "Standards of Care" for the cycle of the bird's life. The future of the psittacine bird is completely dependent upon each and every one of us for its short- and long- term well-being. We must all work together on a universal level toward that shared goal.