

## **The Alaska Bird Club's Lost/Found-Rescue Committee Policy & Procedure - Draft**

### **Purpose**

1. To aid in the recovery of escaped pet birds.
2. To attempt to return found pet birds to their rightful owners or to turn found birds over to the Adopt-A-Bird program if unclaimed.

### **Lost Birds**

Retrieval of Lost Birds- (procedure for lost birds):

When The Alaska Bird Club (TABC) is notified of a lost or escaped bird, the Lost/Found-Rescue Committee (LFRC) chair will assess the situation by phone or in person. Pertinent information includes type of bird (species and identifying features), time and date lost, escape circumstances, last known or current location, owner info (name, address, contact info), etc.

LFRC chair or responding member will attempt to mobilize team as judged necessary. Chair or committee member will bring LFRC rescue bag and ask volunteers to bring equipment deemed necessary or helpful.

If bird is visible, committee will attempt to retrieve bird or monitor bird until retrieved (within reason due to weather and time constraints), with help from owner if owner is known.

If bird is not visible, committee will canvas neighborhood and try within reason to help notify community of missing bird (such as flyers, lost report at Animal Care & Control, TABC website [[www.alaskabirdclub.org](http://www.alaskabirdclub.org)], ad in Anchorage Daily News, other resources as deemed useful).

### **Found Birds**

If TABC gets a report of a found bird in finder's custody, LFRC chair or member will contact finder to assess situation.

1. Determine whether finder wants to keep bird as his or her own, or wants to seek owner.
2. If finder wants to shelter bird until owner is found, TABC will help with care, temporary loan of equipment if necessary, and training if needed, including training related to quarantine procedures. Committee will place notification in Anchorage Daily News, on Animal Care & Control Website, and on TABC website.
3. If finder wants to keep bird permanently, finder is responsible for cage and food. Temporary equipment loan is possible and training will be offered, including education training related to quarantine procedures if necessary. TABC and LFRC member will strongly recommend that finder make every effort to find rightful owner of bird.
4. If finder does not want to keep or shelter bird, LFRC will take bird into TABC custody and place in foster home until owner is found or until the bird is adopted. Committee will place ad in ADN, report to Animal Care & Control, and post found bird on TABC website.

A found bird that needs urgent or emergency medical care will be taken to a veterinarian care facility for appropriate treatment as deemed by care staff.

TABC may pay for care and will request reimbursement from owner or adopter.

5. If owner is not found after two weeks, bird will be referred to Adopt-A-Bird committee (see TABC P&P). If TABC takes custody of bird, "Found Bird" form is to be completed and kept on file.

### **General**

1. LFRC does not involve itself in civil or criminal disputes over custody of birds or related property. Any concerns related to the health, welfare, or neglect of any animal will be reported to the appropriate local authorities, including Anchorage Animal Care & Control, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Animal Shelter, Fairbanks Northstar Borough Animal Shelter, etc..
2. TABC will not accept responsibility for safety of volunteers who act outside of the policy and procedures.
3. When possible, LFRC will ask permission for access to private property to retrieve or track a bird.
4. LFRC will make every effort to maintain contact with all members of search group.
5. Search group members are advised to wear appropriate clothing for terrain and elements. Identifying clothing will be provided, as will a TABC identification card. Search group members are advised to keep state ID on their person at all times.
6. LFRC volunteers will use their own judgment to determine how to safely retrieve birds while maintaining their own safety. TABC will not be responsible for an injury or subsequent treatment costs incurred during a recovery.
7. TABC is not responsible for property damage done by non-club members who are involved in the search.
8. TABC will not be responsible for injury to bird that may occur during recovery.
9. Upon recovery the committee chair may make arrangements for a wing clipping.