

ALASKA BIRD NEWS

March 2010

Lin Westgard, Editor

Volume 22 - Number 03

Available on-line at www.alaskabirdclub.org Dedicated to all the current and future parrot owners of Alaska

Yikes! My Bird is Hurt!



First Aid at home... the most important things to know, practice, and prepare.

When your parrot is hurt or sick there can be two things that you reach for - your "hospital carrier" and/or your first aid kit. Many of us have experienced the need for both, so let's talk about the two.

In Alaska, the availability of avian veterinarians is limited and to get our parrots to their clinics or get an appointment can sometimes take awhile. There are some basic things that can be done immediately to help them in the meantime.

The most valuable thing you can do is to study up on the basic bird injuries and get to know what's most common for the birds you own. Different species play differently and are therefore susceptible to different types of injuries. For example, little birds are more apt to break or sprain legs and toe joints, while bigger birds often break blood feathers due to the limited space in their cages or have bleeding injuries from heavy toy playing. So think about the type of birds you have and then plan a first aid kit accordingly. This will help determine what goes into your kit and how the hospital carrier is designed.

Most first aid kits for parrots contain some kind of powder to stop toenail and blood feather bleeding. Some use styptic powder and some use flour or cornstarch. Talk to your vet about which he or she prefers if you are unsure. Kits should

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Bird of the Month

Meet Elliot

Cockatua Galerita Medium Sulphur Crested Cockatoo

Elliot is a approximately thirteen years old. His species can live up to 60-70 years in captivity and requires annual vet visits and a lot of care including a great diet consisting of pellets, vegetables and some nuts.

Sulphur Crested Cockatoo's primarily reside in Australia in the wild and typically flocks with a lot of birds at one time. They have safety in numbers. They are playful, quick cockatoos but cam be very wary of things, so take your time to introduce new toys.

Highly intelligent, it is important to keep Elliot entertained and his cage filled with stimulating toys, so I rotate toys weekly and focus on foraging and shredding toys. Elliot doesn't like change and so I have to be careful when I'm introducing new items.

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CLUB INFORMATION

The Alaska Bird Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit incorporated in the State of Alaska. It meets the first Tuesday of every month at Serendipity Adult Day Services in Anchorage at 7:00pm. Location: 3550 East 20th Ave (off of Northern Lights Blvd & Nichols St).

The mailing address is:

THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB P.O. BOX 101825 Anchorage, Alaska 99510-1825 (907) 868-9070

President:Lin Westgard....868-8058

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Secretary:Amy Benefield

Treasurer: Ann Gilley

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Sergeant-at-arms:Garry Wallen

Editor:Lin Westgard E-Mail: westgard@gci.net for article information

Adopt-a-Bird Chair Person: Amy Benefield **Hospitality Chair Person: Position Open** Membership Chair Person: **Ann Gilley**

> You can e-mail the Alaska Bird Club at: akbirdclub@aol.com

> > Or visit our website: Www.alaskabirdclub.org

We welcome any comments, articles or any ideas for the club or the newsletter. Current issues and extra copies of previous editions of The Alaska Bird News are available at the monthly meetings.

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No Newsletter? Need Extra Copies of the Newsletter? Pick it up at any of the following locations:

All Creatures Veterinary Clinic Mi 7.4 Palmer-Wasilla Hwy

376-7930

Alaska Mill & Feed 1501 E 1st Ave 276-6016

Alaska Pet-ography 9130 Elim St (on Abbot across from Fred Meyer)

868-1680

The Pet Zoo Anchorage - 901 E Dimond Blvd 344-2966

ER -12046 Business Blvd

622-2966 Palmer - 10201 E Palmer-

Wasilla Hwv 746-0056

Wasilla - 1481 E Parks Hwy 357-7335

Chester Valley Veterinary 1571 Muldoon Rd 333-6591

College Village

2036 E Northern Lights Blvd 274-5623

Hillside Pet Clinic 2101 Abbott Rd #1 344-7913

Northern Lights Veterinary & Laser Center Inc 2002 W Benson Blvd

276-2340

North Star Animal Hospital 840 S Cobb St (Palmer) 907-746-7387

Palmer Veterinary Clinic Mike 39 Glenn Hwy 745-3219

Petco

8621 Old Seward Hwy

365-5500

Pet Emergency 2320 E Dowling Rd 274-5636

The Pet Stop 1921 W Dimond Blvd 522-1006

VCA Alaska Pet Care 3900 Lake Otis Pkwy 562-7387

VCA Alpine Animal Hospital 12531 Old Seward Hwy

345-1515

VCA Eagle River Animal

Hospital

11710 Business Blvd. 694-3800

VCA E Anch. Animal Hospital 2639 Boniface Pkwy

337-1561

Meeting Information: March 2nd - Toy Making April 6th - Avian Safety with Dr. Lorelei Cuthbert May 4th - Spaghetti Contest (Membership Drive)

Those pesky little seed moths!



What are those moth like things that are taking over my house? They are Seed Moths and unfortunately, there are several different kinds.

The problem starts from bird seed moth larvae that is often inside pack-

aged bird foods, but can also reside in cat or dog food. They will feed on the seed, breed, and then soon you have a house filled with these little annoying moths. There are ways to cut down or get rid of them that are non-toxic, so don't give up hope.

You can find trap kits at local hardware stores or feed stores, such as Alaska Mill and Feed. They come in a flat box and it makes you construct a "tent" type trap enclosure that has a sticky side inside of it. Then you strategically place the provided pheromone pad inside the trap and soon you'll be catching those little critters right and left!

Find out more by googling "seed moths parrots" and you can see all the different options available. But remember... you have parrots so pesticides and insecticides are not an option! Look for the traps!

Put them high where your bird isn't curious about them and get aren't tempted to walk into them.



PEAC (Parrot Education & Adoption Center) www.akpeac.org

PEAC is a volunteer organization dedicated to teaching current and potential bird owners proper physical and psychological care for their pets. Failing to understand the nature and complexities of parrots is leading cause of displacement. Advance registration is recommended. Check the web site (www.akpeac.org) for more classes, or call PEAC at (907) 929-BIRD for more information

Thursday, March 18 - Basic Care/Lifestyles for the Successful Parrot Caregiver 7:00-9:00 PM

Tuesday, April 13 - Avian Safety and Emergency Preparedness Planning 7:00-9:00 PM

Ahhh, NUTS!



The Alaska Bird Club gets asked quite frequently where you can get un-salted Pistachios nuts in the shell. Here is a great source that does flat rate shipping to Alaska (as much as you want in a flat rate box) and is very timely AND personable. They also carry banana chips, papaya bits and other nuts. Bates Nut Farm is a people store and their quality of nuts is outstanding. Here is the contact information. Darcie is familiar with shipping things to Alaska for various "bird people" so feel free to ask for her directly:

Bates Nut Farm, Valley Center, CA

1-800-642-348 Darcie

Unsalted Pistachios in the shell - Item #268

https://www.batesnutfarm.biz/

February Fundraiser Table Donors

Julie Forsythe:

Three bird toys, magnet, blocks

Cindy Welbourne:

Parrot Foot Toys

Rayma Hadley:

Lots of boxes of Valentine chocolates

Debbie Lloyd: Jungle Gym Toy

Lin Westgard: Parrot toys

College Village Animal Clinic:

Harrison Food bags

President's Perch



Submitted by Lin Westgard President, 2010 The Alaska Bird Club

Hello Everyone and all their flock members! March is here and within the next few months, we may find ourselves with some hormonal parrots. Along with being hormonal, we will find ourselves approaching warm weather, where we will tend to be opening windows for that wonderful fresh WARM air.

Beware! Look around your home and see if there is anything that can be stimulating hormonal behavior that might exasperate the situation... look at your house from their eyes; did you roll up a carpet and all they see is a dark hole that is just perfect for a nest? Are you putting nesting material in their cage that might enable them to trigger the egg laying mode? Feeding them a lot of warm foods like protein and such? Now is the time to stop and look around. Help them through this period, don't fight it. Cut back your lights and let the more natural light take over. Find stimulating tricks to teach them to get their minds away from "the need to breed". Re-arrange their cages with foraging toys and fun "stuff". There are many things you can do to help them be less moody, and hopefully bitey.

With the warmer weather and lighter days, we are all anxious to open our windows and doors. Make sure you have taken the necessary precautions to consider your parrots. Maybe time for a good clipping? Do you have screens that are secure and won't fall out if they are bumped? I put deterrent objects around the door - things that they don't like or won't tend to fly towards. Every little thing helps. If you are currently a patient at VCA AK Pet Care and have your birds annually checked (highly encouraged), then they do free wing clipping all year for you. Take advantage of it.

But most importantly, ENJOY your flock and the great days ahead!

Check out the Alaska Bird Club's Website!

Find out about our latest Lost and Found Birds, our birds that are available in our Adopt-A-Bird program and other various articles and videos. Advertise your un-wanted cages via newsletter and website! See what's up and coming and stay in touch! www.alaskabirdclub.org

Bird Toys, Supplies and Food Cage Enrichment Consultations **Toy Making Parties Basic Bird Care Instructions** Custom made bird toys (907) 868-8058



Teflon and other **REMEMBER:** non-stick finishes are deadly to your bird. Do not take chances. Bird deaths have been recorded when nonstick cookware used even at low temperatures.

Website of the Month

Local Author! Kris Porter

www.ParrotEnrichment.com

Added Pages: EVENTS

New content has been added to the following pages:

> TRAINING - Training Is Fun TRAINING - Training Resources VISITOR FEEDBACK

Parrot Behavior Consultations

Need help with any of the following?

- Aggression
- Excessive screaming
- Inappropriate vocalizations
- Feather Destructive Behaviors
 - Diet
 - **Environmental Enrichment**

Contact Karen Webster to schedule your consultation today: 929-BIRD (2473) or akpeac@gmail.com.

The Alaska Bird Club has two 20lb bags of Leach Seed available for sale. They'd like to remind you that seeds should be a supplement to your parrots diet only. Nutrition is everything to a parrot and seed does not provide what parrots need on a daily basis.

Leach Seed 20lb Bag of small hookbill seed: Cockatiels, Lovebirds, etc.

\$50.00

Contact the bird club if you are interested. You can e-mail us at:

ested. You can e-mail us at: akbirdclub@yhahoo.com or call us at (907) 868-9070

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SEE - crazycorn.com to find out why birds NEED more than seed!



THE ALASKA BIRD CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

www.alaskabirdclub.org e-mail: akbirdclub@yahoo.com phone: 868-9070 Non Profit Club EIN# 92-0134866

The Alaska Bird Club's mission is to promote responsible avian ownership through education and when possible, to provide rescue and adoption services for abandoned and unwanted birds in communities across Alaska.

We are a statewide 501(c)(3) [non-profit] educational club. All money collected as dues is used to provide educational training and activities to assist people in caring for companion birds. Our main activities include convening educational monthly membership meetings, producing a monthly newsletter, offering an annual seminar featuring experts in avian care and managing a website. Additionally, The Alaska Bird Club manages a statewide Adopt-A-Bird Program offering placement referrals, emergency/foster care and rescue services. The Alaska Bird Club also has a Lost/Found-Rescue Committee that aids in the rescue and capture of lost birds. There are numerous other activities and services that The ABC offers. You do not have to attend the meetings to be a member.

MEMBERSHIPS:

Membership is due annually, and runs from January 1st—December 31st. (rate discount of 50% applies to members joining in August and later). New members receive membership packets and free newsletter mailings.

free newsletter mailings.	_ Single: \$20.00			remp paemete ama
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The Alaska Bird Club, PO Box 1	101825. Anchorac	ie. AK 9951	O	
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Name(s):				
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Would you like to be on a committ				
Adopt-A-Bird: Lost/Found-Res				
Membership Committee: Educ				
Emergency Services Committee: _				
The Bird Club uses e-mail as the p				
on this mailing list or not? Yes			,	
Comments:				
THA	ANK YOU FOR YO	ur suppor	T!!	

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also contain sterile eye wash (to be rotated out by expiration date), sterile gauze pads, bluntend scissors, locking forceps and bandage tape or vet wrap. Another option is to include a large feeding syringe for drops of water or formula for the bird.

Some people have suggested different restraints such as a pre-made collar fitted for the size of your bird. Others prefer a neck restraint to keep a bird from chewing, such as a pre-cut foam piece that fits around the neck (i.e., pipe insulation foam). For the right size and length, ask your vet for help to size one for your bird, and practice putting it on and taking it off so that you'll be ready in case of an emergency (make sure to keep a few bandages on hand for your own hands). Another kind of constraint can be used in the case of a suspected broken wing. A bird can be wrapped in a towel, or one can use a size-appropriate tube sock with the toe cut off that will slip down the length of your bird comfortably and keep the wing close to the body. Again, all first aid kits should be supplied with the right tools for your particular species.

Hospital carriers (or transporters) are something you should have ready for various reasons. These can be used both for transport and for a safe place to keep your distressed parrot. The carrier is usually small and devoid of perches, sometimes with a heating pad on the bottom in case you need to warm the carrier. If a heating pad is used, towels should be placed above the pad so the bird doesn't get overheated by sitting directly on it. The carrier should be equipped for access to food and water, but your vet will advise you about providing those based on the bird's symptoms. The carrier should also have a cover, so you can minimize stimulation and provide an atmosphere that's as quiet and calming as possible.

Hopefully this information can get you started in your bird emergency preparation. Once you assemble your kit and prepare your carrier, keep both readily available and stored close to your cages. Be sure to keep the carrier clean and the first aid kit updated. Consult your vet about what you and your particular birds may need or what your vet prefers. As always, do your research and become educated about your species, its needs, and know what you are capable of doing for your bird in the event of illness or injury. This is also something you should have ready to evacuate with at all times.

You won't ever be sorry that you were prepared.



What a hospital carrier might look like.



What a first aid kit at home might look like

(Continued from page 1)

Sulphur Crested Cocaktoo's are inquisitive and highly intelligent and can play hardy and have fun. Elliot grew up with previous owners that thought he was a female until he was DNA tested and the results came back that he was male, so we made the transition of renaming him a more masculine name. He went from Ellie to Elliot in a single day.

Cockatoos are a rather loud birds, not recommended for apartments or condo's. They demand a lot of attention and care on a daily basis and substantial out time where they can socialize with fellow flock mates and their humans. His day cage is large as well. Elliot lives in a cage that is 6ft x 4ft x 3ft deep and has a room of his own that he shares with another Cockatoo and a Cockatiel. He also has a sleeping cage where he tucks in at night. He's my best buddy and more importantly, he's a very important member of my flock that rewards me daily with the wonderful parrot antics that cockatoos are known for.

This is Elliot at play inside a paper bag, which he tore through on the back side and got in. He was showing me how proud he was with his ability to find his hazelnuts and animal crackers!





Editors note: If you'd like your bird to be the Bird of the Month, e-mail the bird club at akbirdclub@yahoo.com and let us know!



Income:

Memberships continue to come in for 2010! We enjoy having you on the perch!

Expenses:

Thank you to new Bird Club member Doug Tippett who donated the printing of our newsletter for February 2010!

And Thank You to Frontier Business Systems (a branch of Konica Minolta) for the printing of this issue.



FEBRUARY 2010

The Association of Avian Veterinarians

Bird Club News Releases

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DOVER — Life for Delawareans who own exotic animals is about to get a bit more complicated and a lot more regulated.

State Agriculture Department officials, who have been working on a set of comprehensive regulations governing exotic animals for more than a year, say the new rules will be better for the animals and for the public.

But for people like Terry Rogers, a Millsboro-area resident who rescues snakes whose owners no longer want them, the new rules mean more paperwork and an added expense he can ill afford.

Rogers currently has 18 snakes — each of which will require a \$25 permit that must be renewed every three years. Every new snake he acquires will require another permit and another \$25.

"I don't mind buying a permit every three years if it was a single permit to cover all my reptiles. I can't afford a permit for each one," said Rogers, who is disabled and lives on a fixed income.

Rogers and others also say the new regulations may force some people to give up their exotic pets — and that many will disobey the rules and get their pets on the Internet or the black market.

"There's going to be a lot more people trying to get rid of their snakes. There's one on [craigslist.com] already. [The owner] is trying to get rid of it," Rogers said.

The new rules, which were published Thursday in the state's register of regulations and take effect 10 days later, cover a wide range of wild animals — practically everything from aardvarks to zebras. Any wild mammal, hybrid of a wild mammal and any reptile not native to Delaware is defined as exotic.

Venomous snakes, which already are illegal to possess, will continue to be outlawed. So will Gila monsters and beaded lizards — both of which have poisonous bites — as will Komodo dragons, ferocious lizards that can grow to 10 feet in length, weigh 300 pounds and sometimes eat humans.

Other lizards are permitted, but controlled. For instance, Nile monitors and other monitor lizards can be owned with a permit, but the new regulations prohibit permit holders from breeding them.

Release #2, February, 2010. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member? Individuals wishing to subscribe to the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery may write to: AAV - P.O. Box 811720 Boca Raton, FL. 33481.

Committee Updates

Lost/Found-Rescue Committee, Amber O'Neill Chairperson: No new updates, but they'd like to caution people to consider clipping wings going into Spring.

Hospitality Committee: The Alaska Bird Club would like to welcome bird club member Anne Green as the new Chairperson. Anne is the proud owner of a very sweet blue and gold macaw, Fred. Fred's a 9-year female. She enjoys keeping her company while she cleans house (especially laundry and vacuuming!), watching old-school Sesame Street DVDs, singing songs, and shredding papers. In the summer, they like to take walks outside and admire the flowers, trees, grass, and bugs. Fred and Anne are continually learning more about each other. She's a smart and affectionate bird and a great companion.



Fred

Adopt-A-Bird Committee, Amy Benefield Chairperson:

My first month as Adopt A Bird Director has been a busy one.

We have found a forever home for two cockatiels,

We Assisted in finding a bird sitter for 6 weeks in an emergency situation for the cutest little cockatiel.

We have also taken in three rehome request, One for a Quaker, one for two

Conures, and possibly two parakeetsn and an African Grey. We are currently working with the owners.

We still have 4 cockatiels remaining for adoption and hopefully will be placing two of them soon. We will continue to assist the owners to make the tough decision of choosing a forever home, but at first we try and work with the owners to see if there is something we can help with to see if they can stay together.

Interesting Articles to Read

Why Independence is Important to you, your family and your bird...

Please read this excellent article at Avian Enrichment, LLC's website. (www.avianenrichment.com)

This addresses parrots need to make choices critical to their survival and how "independence does NOTmean giving your bird free reign over your house". As a cockatoo owner knows, when a cockatoo is allowed to "play" on the floor, it can be disastrous to both the bird and to the owners toes, ankles, pets and chair legs. This article explains how to help your bird gain a sense of independence by entertaining itself and giving them choices regarding eating, playing, bathing and sleeping, etc. It's well worth the read.

Speaking of reading.... The Anchorage Public Library, Alaska Center for the Book and Friends of Pets are having their 10th Annual Reading Rendezvous taking place on Saturday, May 15th at the Loussac Library. This is a fun FREE family literacy event with lots of local business' and clubs present. The Alaska Bird Club plans to be there, so come on by and say hello!

Save the Date! May 15th, noon to 4:00pm.

More Alaska Style from David Jensen Photography

Visit David's website at: www.alaskaportraits.com 9130 Elim Street Anchorage AK 99507 868-1680 Office 34PpP30 Fax

Photog Blog Monthly Web Specials New Portrait Galleries New Wedding Galleries

Meet the personalities behind the cameras!

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David

868-1680 david@alaskaportraits.com

David Jensen has been our volunteer judge for our Photography contest every year at the Alaska Bird Club for five years now.



Photo by David Jenson



The Alaska Bird Club P.O. Box 101825 Anchorage, AK 99510

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