



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello everyone,

Hope you all had a great month and enjoyed last month's informative meeting on the bird flu presented by Matt Horcherl. This month we have Doctor Echols presenting for us via Zoom call. We will be live streaming it on the Facebook group, as usual, we are hopeful to see you all there.

We also want to let you guys know that we are planning our annual picnic for August 20th (Saturday) at 3 pm at Liberty Park (600 E 900 S, Salt Lake City, UT 84105) in Salt lake city. We would love to see all of you there for it and hope that this extra notice helps.

Sincerely,

President, WAES

AVAILABLE FOR ADOPTION

- Itty Bit - Green-winged Macaw
- Jade - Indian Ringneck
- Blueberry & Frosty- Parakeet
- Angel - Moluccan Cockatoo
- Bo & Rainy - Eastern Rosellas
- Onion & Pineapple- Parakeet

UPCOMING DATES

Monthly Meeting
 7:00 pm June 11th
 Salt Lake County
 Complex (North Bldg),
 2001 S State St in Salt
 Lake City

Annual Picnic
 August 20th @ 3:00 PM
 Liberty Park
 Salt Lake City, Utah

ADOPTIONS THIS MONTH

- Zazou - Mitred Conure by the Bontempo Family
- Pete- Yellow Naped Amazon by the Olsen Family

COMPANION PARROTS NEED BUSY WORK TO THRIVE BY: MATT ROWE

The Need For Mental Stimulation

Let's concentrate on the parrots that are in our homes rather than in the wild. What of their intelligence? Well, we already know they're smart. But it's important to recognize that most of the birds in our homes are typically the only ones in the setting. In that, they are deprived of a hive learning process. Recently, researchers at the University of Guelph (Canada), University of Bristol (UK), and Utrecht University (Netherlands) studied large-brained parrots in homes. They determined that birds in a home setting need continued and intense stimulation to improve the mental capacity they can achieve.

Food For Thought

This new study drew on results from a 1990 study that looked at abnormal behavior in the cage — pacing, biting bars, and other concerning behaviors. That study looked at unchallenging diets, generic housing methods, and a host of other things to recognize how such creatures adjusted to a different life away from their accustomed and wild environment. It was discovered that a diet of standard seed, insects, and nuts was typically not the best diet to provide to a bird in the home or a zoo setting. Rather, more complex feeding was determined to be best. This gave the parrots a chance to spend a large amount of time foraging and working to extract their foods, a process they readily did in the wild. Birds in homes are not the only ones impacted by this. In fact, the birds in zoo settings have as much need, if not more. The results of this new study revealed empirically that many large-brained creatures struggled mentally in caged -or closed-in settings.

How To Help Your Feathered Pal

To prevent our birds from becoming mentally corralled leading to adverse behavior, it's recommended that more mental stimulation be provided. Puzzles that pique the interest of the bird, and a naturalized aviary setting can go a long way in providing the mental stimulation that your bird requires. In fact, understanding the kind of bird that you have in your home can go a long way in helping them exist in a healthy manner — both physically and mentally. It is estimated that most exotic birds alive today are pets inside homes. This puts an extraordinary responsibility on the owner to ensure that their bird receives the proper mental and physical stimulation, challenging foods, and excellent health care. If your bird is exhibiting concerning behavior like feather-biting and plucking, take the time to explore what might help them to better exist in their current setting. This new study was recently published in the Biological Sciences journal, Proceedings of the Royal Society B.