

Parrots First
PO Box 66223
Los Angeles, CA 90066

The People of Parrots First

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Rose and Frank Levine
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Frank Lavac, DVM, ABVP
Deborah Stambul

Contact Us @ Parrots First

<http://parrotsfirst.org>
info@parrotsfirst.org

Many Thanks to...

AVITEC – makers of full spectrum lighting, Avi-nutritional supplements, and Avi-Clean—a non-rinse cage and aviary cleaner.

Dr. Attila Molnar, [All Animals Veterinary Hospital](#), 23815 Ventura Blvd, Calabasas, CA 91302, (818) 600-1838

Dr. Frank Lavac, [Wilshire Animal Hospital](#), 2421 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90403 (310) 828-4587

Deborah Stambul, animal training and boarding. (310) 720-3712

Rebecca K. O'Connor for all her help with training our more “challenging” charges.

Jocelyn July, mobile groomer (805) 551-4493

Parrots First Newsletter – Spring 2015



Cheech was taken from his home in Indonesia as a young parrot when it was still legal to import to the United States and sold to a family that cared well for him for many years. **Sam** was acquired from a friend that became ill and lived many years with a man who doted on him. **Lois** was purchased at a pet store 15 years ago and lived with a woman who adored her and cared for her very well.



Cheech



Sam



Lois

What do all these parrots have in common?

All of them came to Parrots First after their caregivers had passed away.

When Parrots First began 19 years ago, the number one reason that we were asked to take in a parrot was that the caregiver was starting a family and feared they could not continue to care for a bird as well. NOW the reason heard most is that the caregiver is either dying or has passed away. Often there are no family members that feel they can care for the complex needs of a parrot. The lucky ones come to us quickly. The birds that are passed around until we are called often do not do as well. Many arrive picked, suffering from poor nutrition, or with screaming habits. **It is clear that even if our parrot is well loved and cared for they will most likely need to be rehomed due to *our* age.** If a 25-year-old human takes in a baby Macaw, a parrot that can live up to 70-90+ years, the parrot will most undoubtedly outlive the owner.

Planning for the future of your bird after you are gone is an essential part of your bird's good care and must be part of your estate planning. Whether your bird will go to a recognized sanctuary or to a rescue, it must be spelled out clearly (and legally) what your wishes are while you are able to.

Although I do not care for the term “aging baby boomers,” many that fall in to this group will have parrots that will need to be placed. Petfinder.com has [a detailed article on how to provide for your pet's future](#) (regardless of species). **Our feathered companions are our loving responsibility for not just our entire lives, but *their* entire lives, and planning ahead will ensure that they get the continued care and attention they need and deserve if their lives surpass ours.**

Parrots First will continue to rehome or direct birds to a sanctuary as needed, and we will house and find foster homes for those in transition (or who cannot be rehomed for whatever reason). This is a monumental task that continues to loom larger each year, and your help is desperately needed.

**Please help us continue to be here for the birds that come our way.
There are many ways to support Parrots First listed in this newsletter.
*Thank you for your continued support!!! – Rose, Frank, and all the birds of Parrots First***

What's Going On At Parrots First?

Wild Baby Amazons Stop by Parrots First

Parrots First was called on to take in two baby Amazons that had fallen from a tree. The people that found the birds could not find the nest and took the birds in to hand feed them. The birds were eating on their own when we received them. Although these two Amazons were very young and might have tamed enough to live in adoptive homes, Parrots First made another choice. The birds were cared for until they could be transferred to SoCal Parrot in San Diego. This wonderful organization cares for members of the naturalized parrot flocks in Southern California that have been injured or orphaned. The goal is to rehabilitate wild, naturalized parrots, and, if possible, release them back into the wild. SoCal Parrot's first release was in November. Please check out [SoCal Parrot's website](#) and let them know that you support their fine work. - At Parrots First, we believe that a home is not always the best place for a parrot, and we are pleased to work with organizations such as SoCal Parrot as well as other accredited sanctuaries. Keep in mind that Parrots First received no funding to care for these birds, which is yet another example of why we need your support so much.



Parrots First's Wild Visitors

Adoption Announcements

Congrats to Thunder, Jake, and Yoshi who have found their forever homes!



Thunder (left) and his new buddy



Jake enjoying his new dog house



Yoshi happily falling asleep on a shoulder

Peaches and Sunshine Cross the Rainbow Bridge



Peaches and Sunshine

Peaches, a Goffins Cockatoo, and Sunshine, a Nanday Conure, crossed over the Rainbow Bridge this past month. Both birds were in a city park sanctuary that had run out of funds. Most of the other birds in better feather were adopted out, but Peaches and Sunshine unfortunately had nowhere to go. Parrots First was able to take them in, and we provided them with foster homes until they passed this last month. Both birds were very old, and it appears that they died of old age. No diseases were found. We were happy and thankful to be able to provide for them with love in their final years.

6 Ways You Can Help Parrots First

1. Adopt or Foster a Parrot

or maybe a second or third!

We always need adoptive and foster homes. If you can find it in your heart to share your home with a bird either permanently or until we can find it a permanent home, you will really be helping us and our birds. More info at <http://parrotsfirst.org/adopt/>

2. Sponsor a Bird

or maybe a second or third!

Many of our parrots cannot be rehomed due to medical or behavioral issues, or are bonded pairs that cannot be separated. **Sponsorship contributes significantly to the care of these birds.** Sponsor by mail using the form on the next page or online at <http://parrotsfirst.org/sponsor-a-bird/>

3. Donate Money and/or Supplies

Every bit counts.
Here's our wish list:

- Monetary donations (by mail or online at <http://parrotsfirst.org/how-you-can-help>)
- Pet carriers (all sizes)
- Toys, toys, toys! (they get enjoyed quickly)
- White towels (all sizes)
- Soft rope perches (Booda perches)
- Brooms
- Gift cards to Home Depot or Orchard Supply Hardware (something is always breaking)
- Stainless steel kabobs for fruits and veggies
- Pony beads for making toys

4. Volunteer or Become a Member

No experience necessary.
We'll find a fit for you!

Have a little time to donate? There's always something that needs doing at Parrots First, such as bird socialization, aviary cleaning, adoptive home inspections, and grant writing and fundraising. Or become a member at <http://parrotsfirst.org/membership/>
(Tax Tip: mileage to and from volunteer work is tax deductible)

5. Sign up for Amazon Smile

Make your shopping charitable.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of eligible Amazon purchases to charity. Sign up today and choose Parrots First as your charity of choice at <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

6. Tell Your Friends About Parrots First

Spread the word!

Tell your friends about Parrots First and the work we do, and how help is needed more than ever.

[Connect with us on Facebook](#)

Parrots First cannot survive without *you* and *your continued support*. Help us continue to be a safe and comforting place where birds can land when they lose the people they love most.

What will you do today to help a parrot in need?

Cash and gift contributions to Parrots First are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law

Your Dollars and Contributions Make the Difference!

If you would like to contribute to Parrots First, you can do so online at parrotsfirst.org or by filling out this sheet and mailing it to: **Parrots First, Inc., PO Box 66223, Los Angeles, CA 90066. Please make all checks payable to Parrots First, Inc.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support!!!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I Would Like to Become a Sponsor!

- I/We would like to sponsor a **small bird** for _____ months (\$25 per month)
- I/We would like to sponsor a **medium-sized bird** for _____ months (\$50 per month)
- I/We would like to sponsor a **cockatoo or macaw** for _____ months (\$75 per month)
- I/We would like to sponsor **one comprehensive veterinary exam and lab workup** (\$125 flat donation)

A gift totaling \$_____ is enclosed.

(monetary donations can also be made online at parrotsfirst.org)

I Would Like to Make a Donation!

Please accept this donation of:

- Monetary donation of \$_____
- Pet carriers (all sizes)
- Toys, toys, toys!
- White towels (all sizes)
- Soft rope perches (Booda perches)
- Brooms
- Gift cards to Home Depot or Orchard Supply Hardware
- Stainless steel kabobs for fruits and vegetables
- Pony beads for making toys
- Other: _____

(monetary donations can also be made online at parrotsfirst.org)

I Would Like to Become a Member!

Membership includes a membership card, a subscription to our newsletter, free admission to our basic bird care class, and discounted admission to our workshops.

- _____ Individual (\$25)
- _____ Family (\$35)
- _____ Junior/Senior (\$15)
(under 18/over 65)
- _____ Friend of Parrots First (\$50)
- _____ Sponsor (\$100)
- _____ Patron (\$250+)
- _____ Benefactor (\$500+)
- _____ Angel (\$1000+)

(membership donations can also be made online at parrotsfirst.org)

I Would Like to Volunteer, Foster, and/or Adopt!

I would like to know more about: Volunteering / Fostering / Adopting
(please circle all that apply or email us at info@parrotsfirst.org)