



Angel Wings

A monthly journal for human angels who
make a positive difference in companion
birds' lives.

April 2014
Volume 9, Issue IIII

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Angel Toys For Angels

April's Featured Toys



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Small - Large Birds



[Easter Beads](#)
Small - Medium Birds



[Baker's Dozen Easter
Eggs](#)
Medium Birds

Check out all the
[Angel Toys for Angels](#)
now!



Spring Auction Is Coming

STARTS Thursday, May 8, 2014 and runs until Sunday, May 18, 2014
Donations being accepted until May 1, 2014



Dear Friends and Supporters of Parrot Toy Angels,

Spring is almost here!!! And that means PTA's Spring Auction is not far behind!! We all know that a busy parrot is a happy parrot. Have you ever thought about who provides toys for parrots who have to live in rescues or sanctuaries because they have no one who wants them? Well, Parrot Toy Angels thinks about it constantly! And we're quite proud to say we've been able to donate over 20,000 toys to help make their lives happier!

Your generous donations and bids in our auctions allow us to provide the endless necessities, buy supplies, and pay for shipping. The need the rescues are experiencing is so great that we bury our pride during this time and beg for your generosity. More and more pets are abandoned due to the economy, and the amazing people who keep finding "one more spot" to put a needy bird are truly scrambling for funds. They come to us...the requests we receive for help are many, not being able to help them all and having to choose is pure agony.

If you have a business, a store, have a talent, do crafts...we will gratefully include your items in our auction. If not, please consider donating gift certificates and gift cards. These are items everyone likes. Some of the hits from previous auctions include any bird-related items, bird supplies and toy making supplies, gift baskets of all kinds, all animal-related items, retail gift certificates and gift cards, jewelry, art, household and holiday items. Your store's banner will be added to our Supporters page and seen by the many visitors to our website.

It's through your support and that of our volunteers that we are able to do what we do for so many birds and make a difference in so many birds' lives. You can view some of our previous projects here: [2012 Projects](#) and [2013 Projects](#)

Won't you help us keep our toy makers in supplies? Any donation, large or small,

gratefully accepted. All donations are tax deductible. Please contact us at: donations@parrottoyangels.org if you'd like to donate.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Auction Preview



ANGEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Watch for upcoming events, news, website updates, etc. here



NEW NEW

ON THE SITE:

- ♥ [New Items](#) ♥
- ♥ [Happy Flappers](#) ♥
- ♥ [Gift Certificates](#) ♥



*Bird Cages Galore
Affordable Quality*

Why buy a Bird Cage from Bird Cages Galore?? Because we do not "just sell" top quality cages at reasonable prices, provide free shipping and a free toy with each cage; we offer first rate customer service and will answer your questions about most bird-related matters. Visit us on the web, browse our selection, join our discussion forum and sign up for our free Newsletter, [The Caged Bird Courier](#).

We are here to help, because we care about your bird!!



Egg Salad for the Birds
~ I tasted this, it's good! ~
By Toni Fortin

TIP: When cooking eggs for your Easter egg hunt, cook up some extra for the birds.

4 hard-boiled eggs
1 small piece of broccoli, washed and chopped
1/3 stalk celery, washed and chopped
2 pencil asparagus, washed and chopped
1/2 organic carrot, washed and shredded
2 TBSP. plain yogurt
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper

Mix all ingredients in a bowl and serve.



Anyone who knows me knows that my daughter Savannah is in vet school, on her way to becoming an avian vet. I'm very proud and I talk about her all the time. Recently, I was given the opportunity to help the vet school students learn something about those feathered creatures they intend to treat when they are released into the real world of veterinary medicine. It was both a thrill and shocking to me at the same time.

I took 16 of my baby birds - cockatiels, conures and Meyer's Parrots - to the UW-Madison SVM (School of Veterinary Medicine). One of the other students knew someone who raised quail, so they took several in for the students to learn on, as well. They had a nice PowerPoint presentation on 'How to do an Avian Exam' and then broke the class into two groups so they could take turns - one group started in the [Passerines'](#) room and the other in the [Psittacines'](#) room.

The students in attendance that evening were only those specializing in Exotics.

Each student was able to hold the different birds, check their heart rates and sounds and learn to clip wings and toenails. They were shown in the preliminary PowerPoint two different types of wing clips, one called "standard" and one called "keyhole" (which bird people would refer to as a "show cut"). They are told correctly which feathers to clip, and I was able to answer a lot of questions for them. One question I thought was funny was, "Why don't you clip all of the flight feathers?" They are shown the primary flights and secondary flights in diagrams. The veterinarians in charge of the seminar really didn't have the answer. I did. I explained to them that the primary flight feathers are the ones that make them fly; the secondary flights help them land. Without secondary flight feathers, a bird would drop like a rock on the floor, and I related the story of how one of my cockatiels had his breastbone come through his skin because he dropped to the floor due to improper wing clipping from the breeder who raised him.

When you explain things to these intelligent students in a way that makes sense, they really do understand the importance of what you are telling them. I think they also see the value of practical experience. No, I am not a vet, but my many years of hands-on experience does qualify me to have an 'expert' opinion.

When we were in the smaller room with each group, the students asked me a lot of questions. It was nice to see that so many of them wanted to learn about the creatures they will soon be treating as veterinarians. It was also a little scary realizing this is the ONLY hands-on opportunity those students have on birds while they are in vet school. More than half the class was comprised of fourth year students, graduating in just a couple of months.

When you hear the rumor that vet school is harder to get into than med school, believe it. There are only a few vet schools in the US, where there are several schools that have medical majors. UW-Madison SVM chooses 80 students per year - 60 from WI, and 20 from outside of WI. There are a multitude of variables that are taken into consideration for acceptance, not just GPA. My daughter has been around birds since she was born; she was employed by a local rescue for 4 years and then worked in a local veterinary clinic for 3 years doing all of their avian rehabilitation (she has the appropriate license). She is the only student in her class who has practical avian experience. When she graduates, she will be well qualified to care for her clients' birds (and other animals) and I know that we are all looking forward to having a competent avian vet in our area.



Yup, I'm back! Can't keep a good Boo caged for long, and I'm such a GOOD BOO! Don't let anyone tell you different!

I've had a great couple of weeks, it's finally sunny and warmish, and got to spend some time sitting in the sun yelling at the crows. They just keep flyin' over my house, and they never stop to visit, just fly overhead making an awful racket. So I yell back at them.

I like to drive the dogs next door crazy, too. They can't see me when I'm on the back porch with Mom, so I bark at 'em. Then they run and bark, back and forth along the fence, over and over till they get tired. I wait...and when they are all quiet, I bark AGAIN, and off they go again! Too much fun! Mom usually makes me quit after the second or third time. :-)

We got to go visit the wheeled people a few days ago. I just love those 'wheel chairs' and the friendly folks who always want to take me for rides. Mom and I did all the tricks we know, and made everyone laugh. Then we did the big finale, where I was supposed to fly down to mom from the inside balcony, but I fooled her! I flew to the pretty red-feathered lady and landed on her shoulder nice and easy! She was surprised but she gave me a cookie, and that's what I wanted anyway! Mom said I was a GOOD BOO, and I like that almost as much as cookies!

Ooops, better run, Mom's cooking something good and I'm HUNGRY! But first...the Beak-A-Boo tip of the month: When you get a pretty colored toy, try washing it in your water bowl. If your water turns pretty colors, make sure you get it all over you, too.

Mom just loves it when she sees you covered in red and blue when she's just woken up!



Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, One of Mom's friends had five birds in their family and one just died a few days ago. Mom said a necropsy was performed by the vet's office to protect the rest of the flock. What is that and why was it done?
Signed, A Curious Bird

Dear Curious, A necropsy is when the vet looks over the bird that died and tries to figure out what was wrong with it, in case it was something that any other birds might have a problem with as well. For example, if it had a disease, or had eaten something bad, the parronts would want to know so they could make sure it didn't happen to the rest of their birds.



Rikki, I love my food, but when Mom put something in my dish I never saw before, I got really scared and wouldn't go near that dish. Mom said this new food is good for me, but it still scares me. Why did my Mom do that?
Signed, Scaredy Bird

Dear Scaredy, Your mom loves you, and wants you to try new things. Let me tell you, some of the new things are really tasty, even if they ARE good for you! You should be a brave bird, and try new things. If you don't like 'em, you can always paint the walls with them, or hide them in special fun places. You are never gonna be big and strong and smart unless you get a varied diet full of stuff that's good for you.



Rikki, Mom found a hurt bird on our porch, and brought it in to help it get better. I heard it, but Mom wouldn't let me see it or get close to it. Why? I can play with the other birds in our house, so why not this one?
Signed, Sulking Bird

Dear Sulking, Birds who live outside can have mites - BUGS that make you itchy and uncomfortable, and can have diseases that could

make you really sick. They are also not tame and friendly like the birds who live with you. So don't sulk, your mom was taking care of you when she wouldn't let you get close to that wild bird.

Do you have a question for Rikki?
Please send it to The Editor at
editor@parrottoyangels.org



How Was Your Day, Dear?
By Gaby's Mama

My bathroom has acoustics that rival Carnegie Hall...just ask the expert: the African Grey. That sound system is why Gaby could often be found on the towel that hangs over the shower doors, showing off her vocal skills. While this delighted me, it brought a big, strapping, handyman running for dear life.

Bert had spent 3 hours being my rented husband, doing all the honey-do things on my list, and asked to use the bathroom. Gaby had been unusually quiet due to the noise, and it didn't occur to me to mention her.

He was only gone for a short time when the bathroom door suddenly opened and, with a deer-in-the-headlights look, this 6' tall man hurried out and in bewilderment mumbled, "What was that? Who is in that bathroom?"

It seemed that Gaby surprised him with a perfectly clear: "What ARE you doing?"

In his rush to 'finish' and get out of there, he didn't bother to look around and notice her.

To see a man humbled by a woman's voice in the bathroom is truly a treat. And..... we were quite happy to provide an entertaining answer to his wife's question, "How was your day, dear?"



Gaby enjoying "her" sock drawer

Folding clothes with a grey that loves to snuggle and do somersaults under a pile of dryer-warm things presented a challenge until I came upon a solution....of sorts. Of course any solution with a parrot hardly ever means less work for us, but this was such fun to watch, especially with an enthusiastic and surprised, "OH OH, what happened?" each time a sock was dropped. The sock drawer, of course, was no longer just mine, and remained a wonderful mess.



Parrot Tales - Parrot Funnies



A couple I know inherited not only a house, but also a 40-year-old Macaw, when a relative passed away. They say he's a very mellow, well-mannered bird, always says please and thank you, and is very quiet and sedate all the time...EXCEPT after a bath! Immediately after his bath, he runs to the hallway, flaps up to the curved stairway rail, slides down it like a kid at the playground, wings flapping, yelling at the top of his lungs til he reaches the bottom. Then he stops, shakes all his feathers into place, hops down and quietly meanders over to his cage for a preen and a nap.



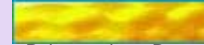
One day my husband and I went to pick up a cockatiel that needed a new home. On our way home, we had his cage in the back seat of the car, and since it was warm and lovely, we had the window open about half way. A rather nice looking woman was walking down the street, and from the back seat we heard this loud wolf whistle. The woman blushed and smiled at my husband, thinking he was showing his appreciation. We tried hard not to laugh!



Do you have a Parrot Funny or story to share? Send it to:
editor@parrottoyangels.org
 and we'll include it in an upcoming Angel Wings.



Safety Today By The Safety Angel



Polypropylene Rope

I was visiting the hardware store this afternoon and wandered down the rope isle. WOW! There are so many different types of rope, it's enough to make your head spin. Ropes for towing, ropes for lifting, ropes for jumping, even ropes for hanging your laundry.

Today I would like to touch on the difference between bird safe Paulie Rope, (also known as Polly Rope, and Poli Bird Toy Rope) and the poly (polypropylene) or nylon rope you buy at the hardware store. Paulie (Poli, Polly) rope is specially made with bird safety in mind. Paulie (Poli, Polly) rope is made with a special diamond weave so that it frays very little and will not unravel. This rope cannot be found in any hardware store and to the best of my knowledge can only be purchased from shops that sell bird toy making supplies. Poly and nylon ropes generally sold in stores are usually braided and can unravel into long strands that bird legs, wings and heads can get tangled in, which may lead to serious injury and death.

So, parronts play it safe and use only the Paulie rope made just for the birds.



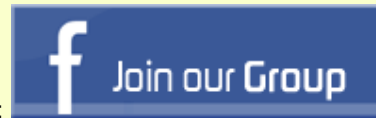
Angels Wanted!!

Have these stories got your toymaking talons twitching? Do you want to help make a difference in somebirdie's life? Come join our ranks! We have Angels from all different backgrounds and walks of life, and there's always room for another generous heart.

Click here for: [Angel Application](#)



Click to join Parrot Toy Angels Yahoo! Group:



Not a toy maker? Come join our Facebook Group:

Help Us Help the Birds...

Our Angels generously donate their time making toys for our needy feathered friends. Quality toy-making supplies are expensive and shipping charges are outrageous. That's why we need your support to help keep us going. Every dollar amount, large or small, is gratefully accepted. Donations are tax deductible.

We also welcome donations of toymaking parts and supplies. A receipt will be issued for every donation. Contact us at [Parrot Toy Info](#) for further information on donating.



All donations tax deductible.

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While PTA at all times tries to ensure any information provided in this newsletter is accurate, all articles are submitted by volunteers, and we are not avian professionals and make no claim as to the suitability of featured products, food, or toys for your particular bird. PTA strongly recommends that you ensure that all toys are safe, that you make sure your bird is fed a well balanced diet, and that you always provide continuing medical care through your avian vet.

Do you have a question or comment? Perhaps you have an idea for our newsletter, or simply want to share a story on how an Angel has touched your life. Drop us a line at: editor@parrottoyangels.org



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