



Angel Wings

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

June 2012
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WELCOME

Dawn M. from Illinois

Angel Toys For Angels

June's Featured Toys



[Precious' Preener Ball](#)
Medium Birds



[Li'l Cowboy](#)
Small Birds



[Colorful Clouds](#)
Medium to Large Birds

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

SPRING AUCTION IS HERE AGAIN

ATTENTION ALL SHOPPERS

If you have been experiencing auction-withdrawal, we have been listening. We have heard your moans and groans, and felt your pain! And are we ever ready for you. For the last few months we have been receiving beautiful donations that will surely please you. Angels have been thinking of what your birds are wishing for and have worked their fingers to the bone to lovingly and carefully create the most excellent toys.

Must you have a bird to enter into this auction wonderland? Absolutely not! The auction offers jewelry, exquisite artwork, planters, gift certificates, parrot toys and toy making supplies...and if you are redecorating, we have the perfect table lamp and coat rack for you.

Our auctions are fun and we love to put them on for you, but the purpose it serves is HUGE. One hundred percent of the proceeds become the funds from which we purchase and donate the non-toy items such as food, cages and at times help with vet bills. It also helps us with the tremendous shipping costs.

You can see why we count on your generosity and why we are so grateful to you for coming back year after year and supporting us. Please stay with us. The work you allow us to do makes life bearable for so many lonely, abandoned and abused birds.

You are our HEROES and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Now, down to business:

Where: <http://stores.ebay.com/parrottoyangels>
When: Thursday, June 7th until Sunday, June 17th



100% of the proceeds from this auction go to the cause we hold dear :
Making a difference...one bird at a time!

HAPPY BIDDING!



5 Grain Vegetable Salad By Toni Fortin

- 1 cup brown rice
- 1 cup hulled millet
- 1 cup barley
- 1 cup wheat berries
- 1 cup quinoa
- 1 cup raw organic pumpkin seeds
- 2 cups soaked and cooked garbanzo beans
- 1 cup soaked and cooked peas
- 1 1/2 cups fresh chopped collards & turnip greens
- 1 1/2 cups of fresh or frozen corn
- 1 cup small cubed carrots
- 1 cup frozen green peas

Measure and rinse your grains, then put them in the rice cooker. Use the amount of liquid your rice cooker says for 5 cups of rice.

When grains are cooked, put into a large bowl. I take out 3 cups and bag up into two 1 1/2 cup bags and put in the freezer. I use this in baked goods or if you want to throw a quick salad together with other ingredients.

Add your vegetables to the grains, bag them up. They freeze really well.

When they are thawed and right before I'm going to feed, you can sprinkle on some chia seeds, flax seeds or sprouts.

From the Angel's Toy Chest By Wyspur Kallis



Beaded Balls is a oh so cute toy made from plastic pony beads. There are 4 strands of pony beads tied on with 100% bird safe cotton rope. There are 4 sets of bead clusters that are tied on making it much more difficult for your bird to get them off. A large marbella bead is added to the top to hold all the beads on with a nickel plated o-ring for hanging this toy. This cute little toy is 7 to 8 inches long and suitable for smaller birds such as cockatiels, conures, quakers and other birds similar in size. The opaque and transparent versions of this toy are both available for sale at

www.parrottoyangels.com



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!!



Are you on FACEBOOK? Then, COME JOIN US!

You WON'T be asked to join the Angels.

You WON'T be asked to make toys.

You WILL meet a great group of people, be part of a great group of volunteers and you WILL see what we do.

And maybe, you WILL find your own special way of wanting to help.

[Parrot Toy Angels Volunteers](#) Facebook group.



Hang It Up, Dude!

By Kim Perez

How do you decide what particular link to use to suspend your hanging toy from the cage or play stand? There are a couple of considerations to ponder - the first is what size bird are you giving your toy to? Second, how heavy is the toy?

The hangers one could use include pear links, quick links, plastic oval links, and heavy duty plastic hangers. I personally only use pear links in two sizes and quick links of different sizes. I only use nickel-plated hardware. Many people do use plastic oval and baby links for their toys.



Pear links are able to hold a lot of weight, but probably not withstand the beak pressures of some of the larger parrots. Some medium parrots, such as African Greys and Amazon

parrots, are smart enough to twist open the link as well. Quick Links are an oval, heavy duty version of the



Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, My mommy says I'm 'monal. I don't understand what dat means. I bites her all the time. Please explain 'monal to me, Rikki...I don't like to bite my mommy.
Signed, 'Monal in MN

Dear 'Monal, You're talking about hormones. Hormones are

pear link. They can hold a LOT of weight and can usually withstand most big beaks.



Small plastic oval links, measuring around 1-1/2" in length, and open on one side can hold lightweight toys. They

may only withstand the smallest, most gentle of beaks. The big round heavy duty baby links can hold a great deal of weight, although big beaks may be able to manipulate them and cause the toy to fall.



If you make a small, lightweight toy and plan to give it to your parrotlet or parakeet, I think you would be able to use the plastic oval link. I would use the small size of pear link with these for my birds.

If you are furnishing a one pound wood toy to your large conure or ringneck, I would use a large pear link or small quick link. You could also use the baby link, as this size bird probably could not manipulate the link open.

Please be sure that you are using parts that are of bird-safe materials. Do NOT use key rings. Ever. It doesn't matter how big or small your bird. The injuries caused by these are too numerous to mention.



NEVER use Key Rings

If you are giving your Blue & Gold or Scarlet Macaw a 6 pound toy, I would strongly recommend a medium to large quick link. (And a back-up toy for when this one is chewed up tomorrow!)

Know your bird. What you are comfortable giving

when you reach sexual maturity. If you were a handfed baby, this speeds up your maturity, it's natural. We secrete these hormones and have little ability to control our emotions and behavior. It may last weeks or months, depending on the species. Tell your mommy to limit your light, not to feed warm foods, no cuddling or petting until you are over being hormonal. Mommy should also watch for your body language.



Rikki, My mom and dad are putting something called a bathroom floor down, and our room is right next to it. So we were told we have to move into the furthest room in the house, with the door shut because of the smell of something called glue might hurt us. We don't want to move into that room. It doesn't have the windows we're use to and it's tiny. Why do we have to move?

Signed, 3 Very Unhappy Birds

Dear Unhappy Birds, Listen guys, this is serious. Those fumes from the glue are toxic for us to breathe. We are very sensitive to many fumes. Be happy your parronts know the fumes aren't for us. It's better to be in a tiny room with no windows for a while than the alternative. I'm sure your parronts will provide a new toy and your favorite foods or snack. They may even turn on the T.V. or radio to distract you. You'll be back in your own room in no time.



Do you have a question for Rikki?

Please send it to The Editor at editor@parrottoyangels.org



your bird, and what has historically worked the best, is your best choice.

Please know that no toy can ever be 100% safe. Even "safe" parts can cause problems, but the above guidelines are great rules by which to choose what you use.



Featured Fid ~ The Red Lored Amazon

By Leigh Anne Stewart



The Red Lored Amazon came from South America and Mexico. Like other parrots, they live mostly in tropical forests. This is the perfect place for them to call home as they can blend in and disappear in that environment.

Adult Red Lored Amazons can grow as large as fourteen inches from the top of the head to the bottom of their tails, and can weigh between 310 to 480 grams. They can live over fifty years. They eat fruits, nuts and seeds in the wild. Amazons reach maturity at three to four years of age. You can find them nesting in tree hollows and their normal clutch is three to four eggs.

The Red Lored Amazon is a beautiful green color with a bit of red on their wings. Their cheeks are a bright yellow and they have a red patch between the beak and eyes. This red patch is called the lores. The tails of this amazon are edged with yellow.

They make great pets. They are intelligent, talkative, and can make you laugh. They can be loud, but that comes with owning any parrot. They need plenty of toys to keep them active. They love foraging toys, wood toys that they can tear apart and I have found that they really love bells. They crave attention and affection from their owners. They are very social birds. Their diet in your home should include fresh vegetables and fruits, nuts, a small bit of seed and a good pellet diet.

The Red Lored Amazon is on the endangered species list. This is one reason that captive breeding by professional breeders is being encouraged.



Don't Go There!

By Angel Savannah

There are good times to take your bird to a vet.
There are bad times to take your bird to a vet.
And there are imperative times to take your bird
to a vet. The one area little discussed is when
it is not a good time to take your bird to the vet.

I know this will go against what so many
people think is right, but... The worst time to
take your bird to a vet is when he is already
stressed out. When you first buy a baby bird, it
is a good idea to take him home, put him in a
cage with a familiar toy, and let him find the
food and water. Talk to him kindly and allow
him a couple of days to acclimate to your new
home, handling him as little as possible. During
this stressful time in this baby's life, a vet visit
can cause more trauma than it can prevent. If
your vet wants to draw blood on a baby, I
would say don't. The blood tests vets run on
birds will show a different set of "norms" for an
adult bird than what a baby bird will have.

One of our vet clinic clients took a new baby
cockatiel she had purchased to a vet for a
'complete check-up.' The blood tests provided
results considered "suspicious" and "not within
normal ranges." They ran additional tests,
including a psittacosis test. \$400 worth of tests
later, the vet had no answers for the client. She
then called our clinic for an appointment to get
a second opinion. Our doctor refused to see
this bird until he was able to rest from the
stress of the first vet's exam. After two months,
the client brought her beautiful whiteface-
cinnamon-pearl-pied cockatiel in for us to
examine. This bird was the picture of health,
and passed the exam with flying colors.

The difference between the first exam and the
second was that the bird had matured a little.
He was past the initial stress a baby bird
experiences when brought into their new home
from the breeder's home and was now about
six months old. He had gone through his first
molt and was feeling pretty good about life with
the new owner. The initial blood test's
inconclusive results were now within perfect
range in all aspects. By subjecting the baby

A Rescued Parrot Poem

By Judith Archer

(Reprinted with permission)

Will you take me home with you?
I can't promise I'll be good.
No one taught me how to act,
Or behave as a parrot "should."

My first owner didn't treat me right
He said I was "bad."
He never forgave me for that first bite
After that, he was always mad.

He shoved me back into my cage,
And I started to scream.
Then he hit me in rage
And my life became a bad dream.

So, now I scream and yes, I bite.
I'm angry and misunderstood.
But, please take me home with you,
Love me and I'll be good.

Please let me come home with you
And spend some time with me.
I can be sweet again, I know.
Take me home, and you'll see.

My next owner swore at me,
I learned to say things back.
So now my words are crude and
rude,
Please cut me some slack.

If you let me come home with you
I'll learn some nicer speech.
If you are kind and give me the time
I'll change my vulgar screech.

I'm really just a baby,
And so misunderstood.
Please let me come home with you,
I can learn to be good.

My next owner just HAD to have me.
She thought I was "way too cool."
But now she doesn't have the time
for me.
She's busy with boys in school.

That's why I began to pluck,
I'm not pretty any more.
I won't be much of an ornament,
If that's what you're looking for.

bird to testing while going through the most stressful time of his young life, the test results were skewed by stress and the bird's age. In a perfect world, all vets would know this and warn their clients. In a world where the almighty dollar rules, many of our young birds are being unfairly subjected to unnecessary cost producing exams. In this same world where lawsuits are abundant, a vet might not want to turn down a client.

If you buy a baby bird with a limited time guarantee, it would be acceptable to have a visual exam of your bird. Along with just a visual check, they can run a quick gram stain test to see if there happen to be any parasites in the digestive tract. Otherwise, quarantine your new bird for a minimum of 60 days. After a couple of months, when the baby bird gets past its infancy stage, it is acceptable for a more in depth exam if you deem it necessary. At this age, you can also have your bird microchipped. I strongly advise this for sweet big birds. They are the easiest targets for thieves. Have your bird's weight recorded. I like to take my birds in about twice a year. I weigh them to compare to their last weight, check beaks and nails, and keep their wings appropriately groomed. I typically do not have any specific tests run unless something might be suggested through a physical exam finding.



I may never grow new feathers,
My chest may always be bare.
But my soul, I know, could heal itself
If I only had someone who cares.

My last owner died and left me,
She said she made plans.
But she never followed through on them,
And I've fallen into bad hands.

Please take me home and treat me right.
And let our friendship grow.
Please let me come home with you,
This time it will work, I know.

Please overlook my failings,
Please end this pain and strife.
Please, please take me home with you,
And I'll be your friend for life.



Calling All Writers!!

Have you ever wanted to see your Bird's name in "lights"?...Do you have a story to tell about how you and your bird met?

Over the years you have read our stories, seen our photos, looked at our toys and how we make them, hopefully shared some of our recipes with your feathered children. You have gotten to know us, well; we'd like to get to know you too.

Do you have a story to share?? Do you have a super easy toy you'd like to share instructions for? A recycled toy idea? How about your birdie's favorite recipe? A cute story? A sad story? We'd love to run it in an upcoming edition of Angel Wings. Please submit it to: editor@parrottoyangels.org. (By submitting your article(s) you agree to allow the Angel Wings Committee to make any editorial changes deemed necessary.)



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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