



Angel Wings

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

November 2013
Volume 8, Issue XI

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WELCOME

Tammy S. from Ohio

Angel Toys For Angels

November's Featured Toys



[Frogs & Friends](#)
Large Birds



[Halloween Fun Platter](#)
Small Birds



[Fishy Fun](#)

Happy Thanksgiving

Happy Thanksgiving from Parrot Toy Angels

Medium Birds

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

Parrot Toy Angels Fall Auction

it's almost here !!

only 2 more days

Thursday November 7 10:00am PDT



ONLY 2 more days....and it'll be here....you've been whispering about it...there's a buzz in the air...you're so excited you can barely sleep! You've made your list...you know that every purchase helps the birds! You've been saving your pennies, nickels and dimes...It's finally almost here! Time to shop!!

The birds are chattering, wondering what they're going to get! Excitement reigns!

But before the bidding begins, we would like to give a huge **"Thank You"** to all of our generous 2013 donors. We couldn't do what we do without your generosity year after year.

The eBay banner below will be active Thursday, November 7 at 10:00am PDT and take you directly to the auction.



STARTS Thursday, November 7, 2013 and runs until Sunday, November 17, 2013

Have fun...and please bid often!



From the Angel's Toy Chest
By Wyspur Kallis



Wee Snuggli

This oh so cute little Wee Snuggli toy is perfect for smaller birds to warm up to. Made from fleece, it measures approximately 6" long. It is a great little toy for your bird to snuggle with and preen. This toy comes in an awesome shade of pink with a hanger to place near a perch for your little feathered loved one to enjoy. It is suitable for lovebirds, caiques, conures and birds similar in size. This toy and others are available for sale at www.parrottoyangels.com. Every sale goes to help birds in need.



BIRDIE STOCKINGS



TIRED of sad little faces glancing at the mantle? Little eyes wondering "Where oh where will Santa Birdie leave my presents?" Light up those faces now with our [Birdie Stockings](#)

"Stuffed" Stockings also available. Each stocking will have 20+ footers included. Ready to hang! Personalization is also available.

Please allow 2 weeks plus shipping time to custom make your stocking. Not only will your feathers love their own...but they make great gifts for any occasion.



Sweet Potato Balls By Toni Fortin

- 1 medium sweet potato, cooked
- 1/4 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 1/2 cup oats (I used Quaker regular)
- 1/4 cup unsweetened applesauce
- Tbsp. chia seeds
- 1 Tbsp. raw wheat germ
- 2 Tbsp. chopped pecans
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/4 cup sesame seeds

When the cooked sweet potato has cooled enough for you to handle, add to all remaining ingredients except the sesame seeds. Mix all together and roll into 1" balls, adjust depending on the size of your fids. Place sesame seeds in a smaller bowl, rolling each ball to cover completely. Place on a cookie sheet lightly sprayed with cooking spray.

Bake at 325 for 10 to 15 minutes.

Yield: 16 balls
These freeze well.



Sequoia enjoying her Sweet Potato Ball



[Order Now](#)

Personalized: \$26.00

Non-Personalized: \$22.00

Stuffed & Personalized: \$42.50

You can find all our Birdie Stockings at:
[Stockings](#)
or, drop us a line if you don't see your birdie.



An Angel Amongst Us

Parrot Toy Angels come in all shapes and sizes, and from all walks of life. Let us take this opportunity to get to know each other better and introduce you to one of our Angels.

This months Angel Amongst Us is Vicki H....



Vicki lives in Arkansas and has a flock of 17 (SEVENTEEN!!!) birds. She has Quakers, Conures, Caiques, Cockatiels, Amazons and Indian Ringnecks.

She became an Angel to help rejected birds and be able to, in some way, give back the love she receives from her own flock.

Vicki is currently semi-retired and works part time in a convenience store.

When not caring for her fids or making toys for them (or us) she writes poetry, takes lots of photos, and loves going to auctions!

Vicki is overwhelmed to the point of tears when she sees pictures of those helped by us, and her heart swells with pride to be part of such a giving group of individuals.

I think after reading about her, we all will agree that she is a tender hearted Angel, and we are very thankful that she is part of our own Angel family!



Touched By An Angel

By Wendy A. Waas
Founder/Executive Director
[Ziggy's Haven Bird Sanctuary, Inc.](#)



In mid July, I received a message from Lynn Williams of the Parrot Toy Angels. This most amazing organization and group of amazing people had chosen Ziggy's Haven and it's residents as it's project of the month. I can't even begin to tell you how I felt when I received that first message from Lynn. But I can tell you that I was so very grateful that I cried like a baby and was very glad this wasn't a face to face meeting. I was a basket case! Though Ziggy's Haven is celebrating it's 10th year, we are still a small organization funded mostly out of the pocket of myself and my husband. We had just put a down payment on a foreclosed property for the organization. This property needed a lot of repairs before we could start putting up aviaries. Money was beyond tight as we struggled to make the repairs and pay the bills on 2 properties. Toys were put on the back burner as there just wasn't enough money to cover them.

I believe God was watching over us as the Parrot Toy Angels timing couldn't have been more perfect. When that first box arrived, I was so darn tickled, I bawled again. It was full of toys and parts for making more toys. All the toys were wonderfully made with the birds in mind. As I sat going thru them with tears in my eyes, I was thanking God and the Angels for the birds' good fortune.

But that wasn't it. The boxes kept coming! And coming! Large and small boxes packed full of toys, parts, treats and foraging toys. So much more than I had expected and anticipated! It was like Christmas every few days! I shed so many happy tears, you can't even imagine.

I am not very good at writing, but I want each and every Angel to know how much we at Ziggy's Haven appreciate you. The time and effort you put in to help small rescues like ours is wonderful. I will never be able to express my gratitude as there just aren't enough words. You are truly Angels and God sent you to us at just the right time. I thank you, my husband thanks you and most of all, the flock thanks you!

With eternal gratitude,
Wendy A. Waas



View more photos here:

[Photos](#)



All About Casey and Ricky By Leigh Anne Stewart

I have always loved birds from afar. About 15 years ago, I began looking around the internet for parrot rescues. I wanted an addition to my family. I found a rescue that had just picked up two macaws. The president of the rescue called me and asked if I wanted to adopt one of these macaws. I went to her home and met all her birds including these two macaws. When I laid my eyes on Casey, a blue and gold macaw, I fell in love. He was a young 18 years old when I adopted him. Today he is 33 years of age. I brought him home and sat by his cage reading him stories. Eventually he came out and began to trust me. He has a large vocabulary today and is full of himself. My life wouldn't be the same without my Casey.

Ricky is my Red Lored Amazon. She is disabled; her legs and feet didn't develop properly. She scoots her body around her cage with her wings. Her story begins with little Ricky being abandoned in a city park in her small travel cage. A

Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, I have some bird friends who pluck and their parronts make them wear a collar or even something called a 'sock buddy'. Why?
Signed, Birdie that wants to know

Dear Birdie, Those parronts who put those collars on their birdies are trying to make sure they don't hurt themselves. I know it looks awful, but sometimes birdies that pluck can actually pick holes in their skin and bleed and get all yucky. I really hope these same caring parronts have taken their birdie to a good avian vet first to make sure there's not a medical reason for it first, though, and have gotten good advice before resorting to a collar.

friend of mine called me and asked me if I would take her, and of course I said yes. My friend took her to an avian vet before bringing her to me. The vet said that Ricky was about 18 months to 2 years old. She is quite bright and can talk, she can mimic a chicken, she whistles, and she is completely in love with my husband.

I have never worked with a disabled bird before, so it was trial and error for me. I bought a small wire dog crate for her to live in. I have hung toys low so she can reach them. She seems to love fabric toys and wooden toys the most. I give her several baths each week, and have to change her paper on a daily basis. She is a little more work, but she's worth it. I am her daily caretaker and since she loves hubby so much, he has created a strong bond with her. Ricky will have a forever home with us.

It is so important to realize that there are plenty of parrots out there that are up for adoption and who need those forever homes. Parrots will always have a very special place in my heart. I will always be involved in parrot rescue in some form or another.



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Affordable Quality*

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[The Caged Bird Courier.](#)



Rikki, My mom does this thing to my nails with these clipper sort of things. She says she is trimming my nails, but I hate it. She says she hates to do it too but she says I need it. Why does she do this if she hates to do it? It doesn't make birdie sense to me.
Signed, Confused Birdie

Dear Confused, Sometimes, even when we have good perches and stuff, our nails get really long and pointy sharp, and when they are like that it hurts to hold us, and we can get caught in the people-feathers they call 'clothes' and other things. And also, if they grow too long, it can be really bad for our feet and make it hard for us to walk or perch.

I like it when my mommy does my nails, she gives me lots of kisses and cuddles and rubs my feet - feels soooo good! - tells me what a good birdie I am, and I always get a special treat when she's done. So I sit still and hold my foot up for her. I know it might look scary, but you'll feel better when it's done, and maybe your mommy will give you foot rubs and a treat after?



Rikki, My parronts keep trying to feed me this chopped up salad looking stuff, them say it's called Chop but me doesn't think I like it. It doesn't look anything like what me is used to eating, but me don't think Mom and Dad would poison me - they love me! Mom and Dad gets pizza and frencher fries but won't give me any. They say it is not healthy for birdies but me wants some and don't understand why they won't shares with me? I thinks they be selfish and mean sometimes. Shoulds I give this chopped salad stuff a try?
Signed, Starving Parrot in the Buckeye State

Dear Starved, Oooh, you don't know what you are mssing! Don't get me wrong, I love love LOVE French fries, but I only get a tiny lil bit once in a while, and only after I've been good and ate my veggies. You wanna grow up and be a big, strong, smart birdie like me, you better eat your chop. It makes your feathers all so pretty and strong and keeps your insides working good, and you probably won't hafta go to the vet and take nasty medicines from being a sickly bird if you eat good food. Besides, eating the same food they do is letting them off too easy! They need to make SPECIAL food just for you. It keeps them on their toes!

Do you have a question for Rikki?

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

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



GMOs and FIDs

By Kim Perez

A Genetically Modified Organism occurs through genetic engineering, when the genes from the DNA from one species are extracted and artificially forced into the genes of an unrelated plant or animal. Most typically, GMOs appear in processed foods, where they have been for close to 20 years. Genetic engineering in food was introduced for seemingly positive benefits - to deter crop pests, to disallow herbicides to work, increased nutritional value or to produce more valuable goods (such as drugs).

However, what has happened is that crops can now produce their own pesticide within the plants. This is great for keeping the insects away from them, but has proven deadly for local animals that may have occasion to snack on the plants. Crops can now also produce their own herbicide repellent, making it possible for a farmer to spray their crops with herbicides to kill weeds, but the GMO plant will continue to thrive.

Although increasing nutritional value was supposed to be one of the benefits of GMOs, I could not find any information on GMOs being more nutritious.

The most commonly consumed foods that are genetically modified include soy, canola, sugar beets and corn. These ingredients are found in a vast array of processed foods.

What about genetically modified food should cause us concern? These foods have caused allergic and toxic reactions, have caused them to become sick, sterile or dead, and have damaged virtually every organ in lab animals. There are a barrage of health risks linked with GMOs and warnings issued by various environmental and health-conscious groups, but there have been no official studies of GMOs' effects on humans.

Many countries have banned GMOs being produced or sold. In the US, there are only three counties (all in CA), which have banned GMOs, and Los Angeles has just considered a ban on the cultivation, sale and distribution of genetically modified organisms, which would make LA the largest GMO-free zone in the United States.

How can we avoid GMOs for our birds? Buy organic. Read labels. Be diligent about buying only those foods that are free of any genetically modified material. Do not feed processed foods. Grow your own food. Cook and/or prepare your own food.

If we follow these rules for ourselves, as we will do for our birds, we could end up all being more healthy - our birds and our human families.



Trick or Treat, Boo Style

By 'Sana Emberg

Okay, I admit it, most of the time, Boo (my cockatoo, for those who don't know her yet) has me wrapped around her little talons. Folks tell me she's spoiled rotten, but I don't

know where they get that idea!!!

Because I spend a lot of time at my desk, and she always wants to be near me, I cleaned out the part of my desk that used to be a catchall place for old cds and junk, and turned it into a Boo play spot. I folded a fleece blanket to line it, put a small toy box in it, and hung a roll of adding machine tape (she loves that stuff!) down in front of it, and quite often she's content to play in there while I'm working at my desk. She loves to talk in there, probably because it's kind of echo-y, and she can hear the music I play while I'm working.

She'll pop her head out now and then, and sometimes climb up my leg for cuddles, but she usually goes right back in there, and sometimes even naps in there.

So, a few days ago, I was working on my computer, and she was playing in her little cave. I think she fell asleep, and I kind of forgot she was in there. My phone rang, and it was in the kitchen, so I got up and went to answer it I must have been on the phone for half an hour or so, and when I was finally finished, I turned to go back to work...

And there sits Boo, on top of my desk...or what WAS my desk! My mouse is on the floor, so is my keyboard. My pens are everywhere, and my desk is literally draped in adding machine tape! Yup, she, in effect, TP'd my desk! That stuff was wrapped around my monitor and around my speakers, it was everywhere! I had just replaced the roll the day before, and it was EMPTY, she had drug it out all over my desk.

I had to laugh - wrong move, laughing at a parrot that's been a little naughty only encourages them - but it was funny. I tried to be firm and explain to her that mommy needed to work and she was naughty to have messed up my desk so much, but I just couldn't stop laughing! She'd played a prank on mommy and was sooo quiet about it...sheesh!

I took me about half an hour to clean it all up, and she didn't help at all. She rather liked her modifications to my desk, and I ended up having to put her in her cage because she didn't want to let me clean it up.

Later than night, I got my revenge (real adult of me, huh? LOL). I had Cliff take her out on the back porch for a while, something she really enjoys. And while she was out there with him, I returned the favor. Took out a new roll of adding machine tape, and basically TP'd HER cage! I wrapped that stuff around her ladders, perches, in and out of the bars, even wrapped it in her toys.

When Cliff brought her back in, I took her to her cage, and oh, it was priceless! Her crest went to full alert, and she stood on my arm looking her cage over and over, doing that cute cockatoo mumble the whole time. I deposited her on top of her cage amidst the mess, and walked away.

It took her longer to clean hers up than it did me to clean mine, and she grumbled and fussed the whole time. But she didn't stop until every single piece of that adding machine tape was gone and littering the bottom of her cage. I was watching TV, and I noticed it was too quiet in her cage, so I looked, and she was sound asleep in her favorite corner. Poor baby must have worn her self out cleaning house. :-)

She still loves her adding machine tape, but I kind of doubt she'll decorate my desk again!



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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