



Angel Wings

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

October 2013
Volume 8, Issue X

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Angel Toys For Angels

October's Featured Toys



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Small Birds



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Small to Medium Birds



[Halloween Beads](#)
Small to Medium Birds



Happy Fall from Parrot Toy Angels

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

Fall Auction is Coming

Dear Friends and Supporters of Parrot Toy Angels,

WE'RE BAAAAAAAACK !!! And planning our 2013 Fall Auction! And we hope you will be by our side again.

The past year has been difficult for many families, furry friends, and feathered friends...and Parrot Toy Angels has stepped up again to help provide toys, food and other necessities to not just our "Angel Projects", but also for some heart-wrenching "emergency situations" that arose. Your generosity and support made it possible.

Our auctions are the only fundraisers we hold. The generous donations and bids allow us to provide the endless necessities, buy supplies, make toys, 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.

Donations have been arriving and, again, this year's Fall Auction promises to have something special for everyone. We will have gift baskets and totes, bird toys and toy making supplies, jewelry, clothing, artwork and lots of unique surprises. Our goal is that you'll find gifts for yourself, your family, and of course, your feathered friends of all sizes.

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: [2011 Projects](#) and [2012 Projects](#)

Won't you help us keep our toy makers in supplies? Any donation, large or small, gratefully accepted. All donations are tax deductible. Donations should be received at our home office no later than October 25, 2013. Please contact us at: donations@parrottoyangels.org if you'd like to donate.

As always, we appreciate your support.

Fall Auction Sneak Peek

Auction Preview



ANGEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



NEW NEW

ON THE SITE:

♥ [New Items](#) ♥

♥ [Happy Flappers](#) ♥



PTA COUPON

20% off anything
on the site!

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pta1013

Expires 10/31/13



Sequoia, 'Zon who owns Angel Toni



Baked Spiced Mini Pumpkins

By Wyspur Kallis

6 mini pumpkins, approx. 3" - 3-1/2" in diameter

1 tsp. cinnamon

1/2 cup chopped walnuts

1 finely chopped baking apple

Heat oven to 375 degrees F.

Remove the tops of the pumpkins by cutting about 1/3 of the way down so the whole top will come off. Set these aside. Scoop out seeds and scrape soft fibers out of the mini pumpkins. Scrape some of the pumpkin off the saved tops also.

Combine the chopped walnuts, cinnamon and apples. Add a few teaspoons of the mixture in each pumpkin. Place the tops on the pumpkins. Arrange the pumpkins on a jelly roll pan or large baking pan with sides. Pour 3 to 4 cups of water in the pan, or to a depth of about 1/2 inch. Bake for 40 to 50 minutes, or until the pumpkins are tender.

Instead of throwing away the seeds, you can roast them for the fids and give as a treat.





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 Kim P...



Kim lives in Illinois and has a whole flock of birds! She has Macaws, African Greys, Conures, Alexandrians, Moustaches, Meyers, Caiques, Cockatiels and one purple Lovebird... Whew!

Kim became an Angel because she loves birds and wanted to find a way to help out those in need. Kim says she has never made it through the pictures of a delivery without being reduced to tears. If she had more room, and more help, she would offer her home to more rescues.

Kim is a band teacher. Her hobbies include playing trumpet, and other instruments, riding motorcycles, and raising her birds.

Kim loves her family (both human and feathered) and would do anything in her power to make them all happy.

I know we are happy that she is a member of our own Angel family!



Halloween Safety Tips

By Nancy Goulding



I don't know about you, but Halloween is

BIRDIE STOCKINGS



not one of my favorite days any more. Now don't get me wrong. I love the costumes, the candy, the kids, but what it does to my birds and other critters is enough to make me want to pull my hair out. I have tried to put together a helpful list of things that might help make the few hours of goblins and creatures invading the street and doorways easier.

♥ Don't let the birds get into the chocolate! Make sure that candy is secure and away from mischievous birds and other critters.

♥ Don't let your bird fly out an open door!

♥ Shield your bird from the frantic door ringing and scary costumes.

♥ Try to cut off trick or treating at a reasonable time so as to keep your bird on a normal schedule.

♥ If you have birds that are able to look out the window, close the curtain or blinds so the flashlights and Jack-O-Lanterns don't scare them.

♥ Keep birds away from candle flames. (Note: PTA does not advocate the use of candles around birds).

♥ Keep paper decorations away from your birds. Some contain unsafe dyes or strings that birds can get tangled in.

♥ Use common sense when it comes to your bird. It is only one day a year. Maybe it would be best to cage them for a few hours. When it's over take them out. Give them an extra birdie treat and scratch.

After all, it "is" Halloween and we all could use a treat!

Reprint from October, 2008 Angel Wings



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.

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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.



Rules On How To Eat Like A Bird

By Anonymous

1. It is always preferable to eat outside the cage, most desirable being stealing from inside someone ELSE'S cage, close runner-up being begging from humans eating.

2. If confined to cage (oh the horror), pick through offerings, fling out everything (if you are a flinger) or drop it straight down, slowly and deliberately (if you are a dropper) - especially if food is freshly proffered, thereby wasting good grapes, apples, carrots, broccoli, snow pea pods, beets, chile peppers, oranges, etc. Never mind that there are

birds starving in cramped cages under blankets who only get stale sunflower/safflower seed mix from the 99 cent store on occasion.

3. If you have exhausted the supply or grown tired of the activity of flinging fresh food, stand inside the seed or pellet dish and either dig out all the contents with your hind leg or turn around, stand on the edge and sweep the contents out with your beak.

4. If given a wedge of fresh melon, tear it apart, leave some on your beak, stand up straight and shake your head, thereby spraying particles and debris throughout the immediate vicinity. Perhaps some of it will land on the buttons of the remote control thereby gumming up the "up" or "down" buttons, and perhaps splattering the TV screen or someone's clean white T-shirt.

5. Raspberries and other darkly colored fruits must be held in the feet. When done, insist on climbing all over human, again, preferably wearing clean white T-shirt. Also, attempt to punch holes in shirt, especially if it is a new T-shirt. Beak wiping is also mandatory on this item of clothing.

6. When eating anything involving (other) animal protein (such as steak, eggs, etc.) or sugar (chunks of fruit, once again), make sure to drop bits in places that the human does not see so that the ants can eat, too. This would be the only area in which you could be accused of demonstrating compassion for other living things.

7. When human refuses to share food, do whatever it takes to get to the food, be it crawl, climb, dangle, hang, swing, jump, tumble, stand straight out from the side of the cage or fly. Looking pitifully sorrowful is always successful. When you finally get what you think you want, throw it to the ground in disgust. This is the height of the haughty, manipulative behavior you seek to perfect.

8. Lastly, never allow humans to see you enjoying the things you know they think you should be eating. Eat in secret the sprouts and veggies they give you. If you must eat the things you flung to the floor of the cage, make sure they are the ones you haven't also pooped on.

NEVER LET THEM SEE YOU EAT!



Tips For Traveling With Your Parrot

By Leigh Anne Stewart

Here are a few tips for making travel for your parrot comfortable and fun.

♥ Purchase a travel cage that will fit in your vehicle. The larger cage or crate they have, the more they can move around and get exercise.

Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



♥ Get your bird used to the cage a few days before you leave. Place the bird inside a few minutes at a time, a few times each day. This gets the bird used to getting in and out of it, and it won't be a surprise once he is in there.

♥ Place several of your bird's favorite toys inside for him to play with so he won't get bored.

♥ Pack up enough of his food to last for as long as your vacation. Bring dried treats like nuts, dried fruits and nutriberries because they travel with ease. Bring at least a gallon of water or two from home to give while traveling in the car.

♥ Bring a table top play stand for the bird to play on once you reach your destination.

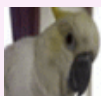
♥ Bring a parrot first aid kit, a cover for the travel cage, and cleaning supplies to clean the cage when it becomes dirty. Also bring your bird's vet records, and a misting bottle. Be sure to clip the wings prior to your trip.

Once you get to your destination, be sure to spend time with your parrot.

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥



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Rikki, A FID that belonged to one of Mom's friends got loose and flew away. How can we and others help her find her birdie?
Signed, Lost a Friend

Dear Lost, I don't think there's anything quite as sad and frustrating as seeing your feathered buddy winging away on a gust of wind. There are many things your parronts can do to try and help your friend make it home. Placing flyers with pictures and contact information all over the neighborhood, and contacting local shelters and vets with the same info is something that should be done right away. Also, there are sites on the internet where you can place ads for lost pets. I highly recommend bringing a cage with food and water outside, especially in the early morning and early evening hours. You can take along cage-mates or even recordings of the missing bird or his cage mates. If the missing bird is nearby, he may come looking for his mates, food and water, or other familiar sights and sounds.

I hope you find your missing friend!!

♥ ♥

Rikki, I was sitting in the window today and I saw a pretty bird outside. I want him to come inside and play with me! I want to be his friend. I would share my food and my toys. He was eating nasty ole worms and bugs and he didn't have any toys, or a mama or a daddy, or any friends, or a cage or anything. Where does he sleep and get a drink?
Signed, Friendless in Cincinnati

Dear Friendless, That birdie you saw outside is what we call a 'wild' bird. He wouldn't be a very good friend for you, since he's used to living outside, and doesn't really like people all that much. He would hate being in a cage where he couldn't find bugs and worms, because he likes bugs and worms. He sleeps in a tree, and he does have a mama and friends, and they all look like him. He would nip at you and your mama, and be afraid of your toys.

Maybe, one day, your mama will find you a friend like you. But until then, enjoy having the house to yourself. Sometimes having a friend like you is not so fun when you want mama all to yourself.

♥ ♥

Rikki, I had an operation at the vet yesterday. Now I have this plastic thing around my neck

forum and sign up for our free
Newsletter,
[The Caged Bird Courier](#).

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



and it bothers me. What's it for?
Signed, Collared in OH

Dear Collared, The collar is to keep you from hurting yourself further. The place where you had your operation is very tender, and if you accidentally scratch it or beak it, you might have to go back to the vet again. Meanwhile, do your best to look miserable, pretend you can't walk or that you are afraid of your collar. It's great for getting extra attention and more goodies!

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



Fireplaces - A Fid's Friend or Foe? By Kim Perez

Heating our bird's area in the cooler temperatures can be a concern. Where I live, in the upper Midwest, our furnaces have already been on this fall, whereas in the southern states, there may not be a need for heat until well into December. We know what we heat our homes with is safe for us, but what about bird buildings or additions with fireplaces?

There are different types of fireplaces, including wood burning, gas, kerosene heaters and pellet stoves. Of course, the key is to have your fireplace or stove properly ventilated. Each type and manufacturer may have their own system for proper ventilation, directions which, when followed, deem your heating device safe.

But which is the best?

Wood burning fireplaces: The particulate matter that comes from burning wood dissolves readily in water - the test that considers it safe. That means that when inhaled into the lungs, it will be quickly broken down and dissolved. What could go wrong is that a chimney flue could become blocked and the resulting smoke and carbon dioxide could prove deadly to our birds (and us). Properly functioning = safe.

Gas fireplaces: Any gas which could leak from these could cause headaches, upset stomachs, many other maladies and eventually death. Gas usually has an odorant added to it so that people will smell the leak and seek help. Our birds are far more susceptible to gas than we are, and could fall ill or die before we know there is a problem. Properly functioning, though = safe.

Kerosene heaters: The smell of the kerosene can be obnoxious, but is not harmful - to us. Birds can be sensitive to this odor, but I have used kerosene heaters with great success with my birds. They must be properly vented. Properly functioning = safe.

Pellet stoves: These are designed for complete combustion of the pellets. All of the organic material in the wood is broken down in the combustion chamber. Ash will be emitted from the chimney, which are mainly water-soluble salt particles. These dissolve quickly and are considered completely safe. The design of these stoves is considered new technology and the result is a safe heating alternative. The stove itself would need

to be completely inaccessible to our birds to make it totally safe.

Of all of the types of heat sources researched, the pellet stove is considered by most to be the safest heating source.



Sierra

By Jenifer Mcphee-Rutter

I purchased Sierra, an umbrella cockatoo, from the local newspaper's classified ad section. It took several months for him to learn to trust me. Once he did, though, Sierra was a total 'love bug', cuddling with me and tossing his pop bottle. For twelve years we had a lot of cuddle and play time together.

Following the birth of my human baby, Sierra began lunging and biting. I believe he was upset by the sounds my baby made. I continued to set aside time for my first baby, Sierra, but his naughty behavior made it so I was unable to handle him at all.

I gave Sierra to a friend who also bird sits. She in turn surrendered him to a local sanctuary wherre he enjoys a very large aviary - and a mate. He is now happy and healthy, and he lives a great life. This bad situation transformed into a positive one for Sierra and I wish him a long and happy life.



Rudy

By Bridget Wagenbach

Meet Rudy, a four-year-old Galah, or Rose Breasted, cockatoo. He belongs to my friend Kim and is the only cockatoo in her flock. He is special to me because he is the first Galah I have encountered.

Rudy's vocabulary includes phrases: "Hi Rudy", "Good Night", "Silly Bird", and "I Love You" although his talk tends to be more of a whisper. He is a wood chewer and loves shredding toys. When I visit, I am able to pet him from outside his cage. He is a sweetie!



We'd love to run your "Favorite Bird Story". Send it to us at editor@parrottoyangels.org



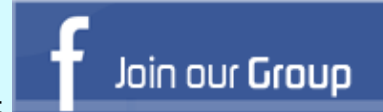
Angels Wanted!!

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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