



Angel Wings

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

September 2012
Volume 7, Issue IX

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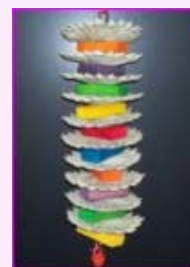
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ANGEL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



NEW NEW

ON THE SITE:

♥ [New Items](#) ♥

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥



Pasta Primavera Birdie Style

By Toni Fortin

- 1 box 13.25 oz. of whole grain pasta (elbows)
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 small to medium zucchini chopped
- 1 cup chopped fresh broccoli
- 2 cups chopped fresh collard greens
- 2 cups soaked, cooked garbanzos
- 1 cup lentils, soaked and cooked
- 1 1/2 cups fresh blueberries
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 Tbsp. crushed red pepper

Put all of the above in a large bowl. Cook the pasta, drain and rinse in cold water then drain again. Rinsing keeps it from sticking together. Mix your pasta in the bowl with everything else. I bag it up in snack bags, then put in a large gallon bag for the freezer. When I serve this, I sprinkle with chia seeds and sprouts. My guys love this and as always they say "I like it, I like it and it's good!"

From the Angel's Toy Chest

By Wyspur Kallis



Wee Hands & Bells

This cute toy is for the wee ones. A plastic hand that is around 2 1/2" long is adorned with 5 small bells and pony beads for hours of entertainment for your small bird. 2 plastic star toys are added to the top of this toy for hours of chewing fun. This toy is suitable for small birds such as parrotlets, budgies, lovebirds and birds similar in size. This toy is available for sale at <http://www.parrottoyangels.com>.

♥ ♥ ♥



♥ ♥ ♥



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West Nile Virus, You & Your Pets By Angel Savannah

The West Nile virus was first diagnosed in the U.S. in 1999. This year has been the largest outbreak of WNV since then. The virus is transmitted by mosquitoes who have been infected by sucking the blood from infected dead birds. People, horses and birds seem to be at the highest risk.

According to the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), at least 26 deaths and 693 cases in 32 states have been reported nationwide as of August 14, 2012. A Texas judge has declared a state of emergency in Dallas County due to nine deaths there, all determined to have been caused by WNV. Dallas had a mild winter with abundant rain, which helped to make up for last year's drought, but it has also spurred the mosquito manifestation this year.

There are no medications to treat the virus, nor vaccines to prevent WNV. There is a vaccine for horses to help prevent them from contracting it. For people and other pets, the key that is being stressed is prevention. People are to use an approved mosquito repellent. For pets, it can be a little more difficult to find the right preventative. There are mosquito repellents you can use on dogs, but they are not safe around cats. If you own both cats and dogs, you should not use those repellents on the dogs, as your cats may fall ill. There are some natural remedies people recommend. Many people use Avon's Bug Guard for children with their pets. They also recommend Avon's Skin-So-Soft bath oil. This is safe for your pets and seems to naturally deter mosquitoes. One of my relatives uses dryer sheets and rubs them all over her dogs to keep the mosquitoes away. (Those are also not safe around cats, and not safe for any pet to ingest the sheets.)

Rikki Sez

Rikki will try and answer frequently asked questions here.



Rikki, I came home to my family during the Holidays. I was a present for the family. My family used to cuddle with me and I was let out of the cage a lot. I really love this family and they really love me. But lately they haven't been paying as much attention to me as they used to and I am stuck in my cage a lot. What did I do wrong and how can I fix it?
Signed, Stuck Alone in the Corner

Dear Stuck, I am sorry to hear this. Unfortunately, this happens more than our humans would like to admit. The newness wears off and we are sometimes forgotten. What I like to do is say cute things to my humans. I have a really cute, "C'Mere!!" that I give them until someone comes to see me and give me treats or let me out of my cage. If that doesn't work, an "I love you" usually does!

Please try not to hold it against them. Humans are not perfect creatures. Sometimes they realize that they are not doing the right things with us birds, and they (with good intentions) will send us to live with other humans who are better suited to care for our needs. The new humans might see that we are now old enough to begin our birdie families and might even find a mate for us. That is a lot of fun for us, too!

For our birds, it is very difficult. In the vet clinic where I work, the vets say you can use Skin-So-Soft around your birds, but sparingly. They would rather you spray everything around the perimeter to ward off the mosquitoes and not really on your bird.

The key for our birds really is prevention. Keep them inside. If a mosquito gets into your house, kill it ASAP! If you do take your birds outdoors, avoid early morning and dusk, the times of day mosquitoes are the most prevalent. Spray your yard during a time when the pets are not outside as a preventative measure. And they say for people, along with these things, to wear long sleeves and dark clothing.

If you become ill, seek treatment immediately. The first symptom is typically headache, followed by vomiting. Other symptoms include fever, body aches, joint pain, diarrhea and rash. If your pet contracts WNV, it is not transmittable to you. In pets, the symptoms include lethargy and fever.

The West Nile virus is most prevalent from June through September, with the largest occurrence in August.

The CDC has posted this information to many different web sites and has been quoted in numerous news stories nationwide.



Which solution is the right one to our dilemma? Every birdie is different. Some birds just want everything to be the same forever. Some like to have a mate to be with. Some like to have a new family who can better meet their needs, no matter what they are. I hope that whatever your wishes are, you will have the good outcome you wish for!



Rikki, We were out in our room yesterday and I decided I wanted to go into the other room where my dad was with my human brothers. When I flew in there, something reached down from up above and slung me to the floor. I was dizzy, and I lost some of my feathers but Mom says I am okay now and not hurt. It is a big scary thing that goes round and round called a ceiling fan. Why did it do that? I think I won't go back in the other room any more. Does everybody have the ceiling fans in their other room? Do they get all birds? Do they not like birds? Dizzy and Scared
Signed, Dizzy and Scared

Dear Dizzy, Those ceiling fans can be very dangerous to us flying birds. Humans have them to move the air around in the room. They help cool the room in the summer and they help the warm air come down from the ceiling in the winter. My cousin Louie flew into one that was going real fast. Louie is missed by his human family and his parrot family.

Tell your parronts to buy a tower fan or an oscillating fan. They both have a protective grid on them. The ceiling fan should be disconnected, removed or tape put over the switch on the wall. Your parronts should Parrot-proof their home, you know like child-proofing for the humans so no unfortunate accidents can occur. Safe flying little one,



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



Featured Fid ~ The Green-winged Macaw
By Leigh Anne Stewart



Buster, Green-wing Macaw, loved and missed by Leigh Anne

The green-winged macaw hails from central and South America, as well as Panama, Columbia, and Venezuela.

They reside in forests, palm groves, and swamplands. Currently they are moving closer to remote, hard to access areas.

They have a deep red shade, almost a burgundy red, and dark green feathers on their wings. Their flight feathers are blue and the tail feathers are blue with a red tip. They are about 3 feet long and have a 4 foot wing span. A healthy weight for the green-winged macaw is between 2 and 2 1/2 pounds.

They eat a variety of seed, fruit, nuts, and vegetables in the wild. Their life span is 50 to 80 years, depending on their health.

The green-winged macaw makes a great pet bird. They are trainable, affectionate and have nice dispositions. In the home setting, they should be fed a quality pellet along with nuts, fruits and vegetables. They require a lot of physical and mental stimulation. They need a variety of toys in the cage and out of the cage. They crave the attention of their humans and need lots bonding time because they are a very social species. They are known as the "gentle giants."

Before purchasing or adopting a green-winged macaw, you need to know that they will require considerable expense in food, toys and vet care. They are a large bird and macaws in general can be intimidating to their humans. It may be a good idea to handle and get to know how a green-winged macaw acts before committing to the bird for life.



Baggage (The Meaning of Rescue)

Now that I'm home, bathed, settled
and fed,
All nicely tucked in my warm new
bed,
I'd like to open my baggage,
Lest I forget,
There is so much to carry,
So much to regret.
Hmmm...Yes, there it is, right on the
top,
Let's unpack Loneliness, Heartache
and Loss,
And there by my perch hides Fear
and Shame.
As I look on these things I tried so
hard to leave,
I still have to unpack my baggage
called Pain.
I loved them, the others, the ones
who left me,

Back To School Playtime By Kim Perez

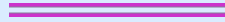
The kids are back to school and their pet birds are in need of toys to occupy their newly free time. This is an especially important time to keep a closer watch on your birds as they are a little more frustrated than they have been with their young companions home for the summer. They may be a little too hard on their toys and they may actually cause the toys to become unsafe.

A toy that may have gone unnoticed all summer may be the focus now of your bird's playtime. Many people like to keep some sort of snuggle toy with their bird -- something made of fabric or fleece that a bird can cozy up to for comfort. Since the bird had the comfort and companionship of their young friend for the summer, they may have ignored this toy and you may have assumed that it is safe. If a bird pulls at the threads in the fabric, they can possibly

But I wasn't good enough - for they
didn't want me.
Will you add to my baggage?
Will you help me unpack?
Or will you just look at my things,
And take me right back?
Do you have the time to help me
unpack?
To put away my baggage, to never
repack?
I pray that you do - I'm so tired you
see,
But I do come with baggage,
Will you still want me?

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ANGEL FUNNY

Q: Why don't birds have saliva?

A: Because their featherth would
thtick to their mouuth!



pull stray threads and wrap them around either
their toes or neck. Be sure if you see loose
threads that you trim them off immediately.

Check any toys on metal chain or wire for signs
of rust if they have been there for a while. The
summer months were very humid in many places
and this can cause metal to rust. We have even
seen stainless steel parts (which should NOT
rust) either rust or discolor. Neither of these is
good for your bird. The safest option is to
discard the toy and replace it with a new one.
You can also opt to remove the parts and re-
string them onto a new wire or chain.

Check rope toys for frays and be sure to trim
them. If it is a plastic rope that has frayed and
you do not feel you can adequately remove the
frays, remove the toy. Frayed ropes can cause a
myriad of issues, especially the "harder" ropes
such as poly ropes or sisal rope. Sisal rope is
strong enough that it can strangle a toe or
foot and remove it from the bird. Please also
check rope perches and boings.

Plastic toy parts can become brittle and have
very sharp ends when broken. Inspect your toys
for easily broken pieces and remove the parts
that may cause problems.

If you use hardwood toys with your birds, check
the edges for sharp points sticking out. Soft
wood toys are by far the safest, as the edges
are not as threatening as the hardwoods.

In general, it is a good idea to maintain a vigilant
watch over your bird's toys during this stressful
time of year for your bird. If you notice your bird
is playing differently than normal, check more
frequently. You can prevent many accidents by
simply maintaining your toys and exercising daily
preventative measures.



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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