

## PRIMARY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE: NOVEMBER

### The Long Goodbye: Finding A New Home For Your Bird

If there is one constant in life, it is change and our inability to predict when it happens. Even the most prepared bird owner can be struck by unexpected life circumstances that test their ability to keep their pet. Some common circumstances are:

- Letting go of a pet due to health or financial reasons
- Moving to a pet-restricted home
- Finding a new home for a relative's/friend's bird if they pass away

Whatever *your* reason might be, if you can no longer keep your plumed friend, exotic bird rescues are often the best place for you to start your rehoming search. Taking your bird to a rescue is a good way to ensure your bird will receive top-notch care and the interaction he or she needs to stay happy, healthy and engaged. Here are some basic tips for finding a good home for your bird.

#### **Search online for bird clubs or aviculture societies in your area.**

Most bird club members are proficient in bird care and socialization, and have a boundless love for all things avian. Odds are a member of one of these clubs may be willing to take your bird if you broach it with them. Make an effort to visit a [bird club meeting in your area](#) to connect with members and to find people that may be willing to take your bird.

#### **Place a classified ad.**

Consider placing a [classified ad online](#) or in your local newspaper. One benefit to finding a new home for your bird using this route is your ability to conduct a more in-depth interview process with your pet's potential new owner. If you do list your bird for adoption in this manner, consider asking for a reasonable adoption fee will help ensure that your pet's new owner will take good care of your feathered friend.

#### **Consult with an Avian Veterinarian.**

Your avian vet is a great resource for you to draw on at a time like this. Inquire if your vet would be interested in taking your bird, or if he/she knows of anyone that might be in a position to give your bird a new home. Most vets have many connections within the avian community. The [Association of Avian Veterinarians](#) is a good place to start if you don't have an avian vet.

#### **Reach out to your social circle.**

Try reaching out to your family, friends, or even your social contacts, via Facebook, Twitter, etc. You might be surprised how many people know someone who owns a bird or has connections to someone who can help. Explain the situation clearly and be honest about your reasons for having to give your bird up. If you can find someone in your circle of trust that can give your pet a home, it will be easy for you to make sure that the bird receives quality care in a stable and loving environment.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Parrot behavior and care events happening during November

**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Parrot 101, Parrot University. Pineville, NC. Contact 704-889-2325.  
[www.parrotu.com](http://www.parrotu.com)

**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Synergy, Caring for the Whole Parrot. Northern VA: Hosted by the Phoenix Landing Foundation. For more information go to [www.phoenixlanding.org](http://www.phoenixlanding.org)

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** Thing's I Wish I'd Known - A Comprehensive Parrot Care Class. Fairfax/Pender, VA. Hosted by the Phoenix Landing Foundation. For more information go to [www.phoenixlanding.org](http://www.phoenixlanding.org)

**November 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011:** We're Back: South Texas Avian Symposium in conjunction with Texas A&M University and the Schubot Center. Contact: 210-287-2061; [jancheney@texas.net](mailto:jancheney@texas.net)

## CHEEKERS CHOICE TOY OF THE MONTH



Cheekers currently loves the Bird Kabob! Because birds instinctively want to chew - you can watch your pet enjoy unlimited hours of fun shredding the Bird Kabob. The Bird Kabob satisfies your bird's natural chewing and preening instincts; it's earth friendly, made of all natural sisal and soft fibrous materials and helps to relieve stress, boredom and feather plucking.

Priced to move quickly, from \$5.99 to \$10.99! The Bird Kabob comes in four sizes, the Bird Kabob Mini, the Bird Kabob Original, the Bird Kabob Grande and the Bird Kabob Mucho Grande, so it is appropriate for all of the birds we sell toys to! Click [here](#) to buy.

## RECEIPE OF THE MONTH: THANKSGIVING SWEET POTATO MASH

3 Sweet Potatoes (peeled)  
2 Ripe Bananas (optional)  
1/4 C. Nut butter – Peanut /Sunflower/Cashew (optional) \*  
1/4 C. Frozen peas and corn mixed

### Instructions:

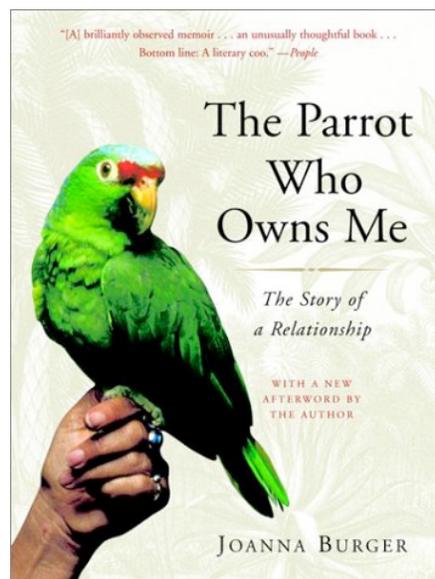
1. Boil sweet potatoes and put them in a bowl
2. Mash peeled sweet potatoes
3. Mash in bananas
4. Mix in the peanut butter, frozen peas and corn.

You may feed your bird in tablespoon-sized portions and can freeze remaining mixture in ice cube sized portions for thawing and serving later. Just pop them into a Ziploc freezer bag when frozen.

**Note:** There is some debate in the avian community about feeding peanut butter to birds. It is generally safe only in small amounts. You should limit amounts because it's very high in fats, which are harder for birds to digest. Organic and unprocessed peanut butter has a higher chance of Aflatoxins, which can cause aspergillus in birds. I would recommend a "peanuts only" formula in order to reduce the amount of extra oil, sugar, and salt that he/she will get.

## WHAT WE'RE READING

The Parrot Who Owns Me: The Story of a Relationship  
By Joanna Burger



I read this book years ago when I first became interested in parrots. Now, several years later I can relate to the author and the relationship she built with an Amazon named *Tiko*.

Many people do not understand the huge difference in sharing your life with a parrot versus a cat or dog. Parrots bond with their human as their flock. If something happens to their flock, they grieve and often die prematurely as a result. They also have incredible memories and hold grudges. This is the case with *Tiko* who lost his beloved flock in a short period of time and struggled as a result.

Luckily, the author, who understood parrots, lived next door and was willing to let *Tiko* live out his life with her and her husband. Over time his grief lessened and he bonded to Joanna in a truly unique way. In her book she tells the story of how patience and love helped *Tiko* regain his strength and bond to a new human.

It is a beautiful story and helped me to understand some of my own parrots' behaviors. **This book makes a great gift for the parrot lover in your life.** **JAMIE YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER BUYING FOUR OF THESE BOOKS TO SEE ON YOUR WEBSITE FOR XMAS SO WE CAN LINK TO THEM.**

