

Repeat the sequence as needed. It helps to count out loud as you go. Once recovered, place the bird in a warm supportive environment and call your avian vet for further guidance.

If you have never taken a CPR class I urge you to do so. It will help you learn these skills and have the confidence to use them. You can practice avian CPR and Rescue Breathing on a stuffed toy bird just as we practice on the Anne doll in human training. Please do not practice this on your conscious, breathing birds. Besides being harmful for them you could get your tongue and lips bitten.

<http://www.wingwise.com/cpr.htm>

Feather Collection

We are ready to make a shipment of feathers to the Feather Distribution Project. Please bring the feathers you have been collecting to the next meeting.

You have been collecting your feathers, right? You do remember the Feather Distribution Project, right?

For new members, the Feather Distribution Project is a service project run by Dr. Jonathan Reyman, whose "day job" is at the Illinois State Museum, in Springfield, as an anthropologist. Dr. Reyman and volunteers collect feathers, process them and distribute them to Native Americans for use in ceremonial garments and objects.

You can find more information on our website at:

www.gatewayparrotclub.org/Events/Programs/FeatherDistribution/Feathers.htm

Or on the Wingwise website at:

<http://www.wingwise.com/feather.htm>


Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 4, Issue 8

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Presidential Perch

Monthly Update

Phyllis is traveling and was unable to file her usual update. She did, however, want to remind everyone about the important December meeting. The general meeting will be at the regular time, 2:00 PM, Sunday 12/19. From a business perspective, this meeting is important, as it is our annual election of Board Members and Officers. From the fun perspective, this meeting is important because it is our Holiday Party. Please bring a food dish to share. There will be an optional gift exchange with a maximum value of \$10. Phyllis will be there... 

Tid Bits

Trey Shaffer

Newsletter Format

As you should have noticed, this newsletter is in a new format. This is due, primarily, to the fact that we will soon be producing the newsletter with new equipment. More on that in a moment. Besides the booklet format, content will be presented in a straight-through, linear fashion. Whereas previously each article was presented near the front of the newsletter with a single column and linked to the rest of the article elsewhere, a la the WSJ, the new

format will present each article in its entirety, followed by the next. This linear style is the result of reader feedback. And since it appears that most members read the newsletter in its entirety, I won't fret too much about the order in which articles appear.

Newsletter Content

As mentioned, the linear format is the result of reader feedback. Some other feedback of note is comment on last month's article, **The Myth of the Happy Bappy: From Incubator to Rescue:** by Greg Glendell. Besides enlightening us as to the etymology of the term, "Bappy," Greg presented a stark view of the current state of pet birds. The article also made reference to Dr. Ken Welle, a respected Avian Veterinarian and past speaker to our group. The reference criticized Dr. Welle's recommendation that birds' wings be trimmed for their own safety.

Specifically as it relates to wing trimming, the Club has no official position. Personally, I wrote a humorous article a couple years ago concluding that a bird that could not fly was just a feathered monkey. That was before my Greenwing, "Q," spent the night in the tree tops and was "rescued" by Creve Couer Fire District's hook and ladder truck. Q is now a feathered monkey and doesn't seem unhappy. There is an active community, on the web, proponents of free flight for pet birds. It is a scary possibility that our "loved ones" will fly away and never return.

Getting back to the subject... newsletter content, the content of the Squawk 'n Talk depends, in large measure, on material people send me. Some of our more motivated contributors are rescue-oriented. As editor, I frequently face a deadline with little or no content for the issue. I send out an appeal for content and print what comes back. I make a regular plea at Club meetings, for articles and/or content suggestions, so I will make it here. If you would like to see articles of a particular type or topic, please let me know. Better yet, find the article and forward it to me for publication. I will contact the author and request permission. Most "bird people" are gracious when we ask to use their material.

Getting back to Greg Glendell's article, while it presented a disquieting view of exotic birds in captivity, this is reality as seen by rescue organizations. While it may be "preaching to the choir" presenting this to Club members, among the most motivated/educated avian caretakers, it highlights the Club's mission to promote education that will reduce the suffering of the animals discussed in the article, seen in shelters and those that never make it into rescue.

see if there is a blockage. Clear it with your finger or a cotton swab if there is. Put your ear to their breast and listen for a heartbeat. If you have a stethoscope, even better.

If there is no respiration, a clear airway and there is a heartbeat then start Rescue Breathing.

Hold the bird in front of your face, tilted slightly away from you with one hand supporting its head and the other its body. Open the beak if necessary. Turn your head a quarter turn to the left or right and put your mouth over the bird's beak. Take a breath, seal your lips around the beak and nares for a small bird or only the beak and put your index finger over the nares for a larger bird. Blow five quick breaths into the birds beak. The strength of your breath should be governed by the size of the bird. For a little bird like a Budgie just little puffs will do. For a large bird like a Macaw you will have to breathe more air in to fill the lungs and air sacs.

Watch the breast to see if it rises with each breath you puff in. You can see it clearest just where the breast muscles meet the abdomen. If the breast is not rising then you are not getting air into the lungs and need to check again for blockage. If the bird's breast is rising with your puffs, then pause after five breaths and watch for a second to see if the bird has begun breathing on its own again. If breathing has not resumed, then puff two breaths and pause a second to check for breathing again. Continue this pattern until the bird has resumed breathing on it's own. Check periodically for heartbeat by putting your ear to the bird's breast and listening.

If there is no respiration, a clear airway and no heartbeat or if you lose heartbeat while doing Rescue Breathing then you have to go into CPR and add chest compressions.

Birds normally have a very rapid heartbeat so you will try and simulate that with gentle, rhythmic finger pressure on the sternal keel. For little birds like budgies I use one finger and for larger birds like macaws I use three fingers. The pressure will be lighter for a small bird, stronger for a large bird. Use enough pressure to depress the sternum down. You want to press quickly at a rate of about 40-60 compressions a minute, while giving two breaths to the bird about every ten compressions. Check every minute or so for heartbeat and respiration.

So the pattern for CPR is: Five quick breaths, ten compressions, check for heartbeat and respiration, two breaths, ten compressions, two breaths, ten compressions and so on for a full minute then check vitals again.

just as you would with your children. It can make all the difference in the world.

© Cliff Patterson

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Avian CPR and Rescue Breathing

Kathleen Smith - Wingwise.com

Editor's Note - Thank you Kathleen for permission to use this content from your website. Thanks to Georgia Fletcher for sending the link and suggestion to use this. Kathleen manages the Wingwise.com website, which also happens to be the Internet home of Dr. Reymann's Feather Distribution Project. This article is the text from a [Wingwise](http://Wingwise.com) page. There are a number of photographs included on the web page for clarification. Though we don't reproduce them here, please visit the website and check them out. The photographs are by Jonathan Smith.

Here's the scoop on bird CPR and Rescue breathing. It is very similar to techniques used on humans, but with a few important differences.

For those of you who have learned human CPR you may recall the three most important things to evaluate before initiating the technique. These three things are breathing, airway and pulse.

You put your head down to the person's mouth and nose to listen and feel for breath. You watch their chest for respiration movement. You open and check their mouth to see that it is clear, actually sweeping your finger around inside their mouth to insure there is nothing blocking the airway. You tilt their head back to keep the airway open. You feel for pulse and listen for a heartbeat.

You never do chest compressions on someone who's heart is beating. It could do harm.

If there no respiration, a clear airway and there is pulse/heartbeat you start Rescue Breathing. If there is no respiration, a clear airway and there is no pulse/heartbeat you start CPR.

You would evaluate your bird for the same things if you found it down and out. Look at the breast and abdomen to see if it is moving due to respiration. Open the beak and look into the mouth to

New Toys

Based primarily on revenue from this year's Fair, the Club is acquiring some new equipment. Some is on order. Some is on hand. We have a new video projector. Similar to units we have rented for our annual Fairs. This will save the expense for future Fairs and we will have it available for monthly meetings. Look for the system at the Holiday party.

Mentioned earlier, the Squawk 'n Talk will get a new look. This will involve two pieces of equipment. One is a new printer, the other a booklet folding/stapling device. The printer will offer several improvements. First, print quality will improve. Each newsletter will be an original, laser-printed document. This will allow inclusion of graphics, shading and photographs. It will also allow printing addresses as part of the basic document run rather than as separate labels to be peeled and stuck in a separate task.

We should thank Kinkades for their effort in publishing, stapling, folding, labeling, applying postage and mailing the newsletter. The other piece of new equipment will streamline that process even further. We will be getting a booklet folding/stapling machine. This will allow folding and stapling in a single operation. We have 100+ newsletters each month, and thousands of programs for the Fair each year, that will benefit from this new device.

New Logo

You may have noticed, the bottom of the venerable "Grey under the Arch" logo has been chopped off. The general Club logo will no longer have the "All American Hookbill Show" banner at the bottom. We will use something similar for the Fair, with a banner like, "All-American Hookbill Fair" to better represent the current event.

Elections

Get out the vote. Get out and vote. Please join us at the meeting 12/19 to cast this year's vote for Officers and Board Members. While this meeting is our Holiday Party, the business portion of the meeting will be held, before the social function, at the regular time, 2:00 PM.

December Meeting Location

The December meeting, 12/19, will be at the Humane Society, but will be in a different room. Rather than the training room in the rear, we will be in the Auditorium, in the front. Look for our usual signs to direct you. The entrance we will use is probably the one on the South side of the center portion of the building closest to Macklind.

Constitution and By-Laws

We recently decided to review our Constitution and By-Laws. We observed some inconsistencies between the two documents and between the documents and our common practices. This is a pretty boring process, but should be completed. According to the documents, proposed changes to the documents should be submitted to the Secretary, Dorene, in writing, advertised in the newsletter and then voted on at a meeting. Changes to the Constitution require a two-thirds vote. Changes to By-Laws require a simple majority.

Physical copies of the documents have become scarce, and their electronic source unavailable. A transcription is available for review on our website. The transcription has proposed modifications interspersed with original text. You can find this information on the home page of the website at: www.GatewayParrotClub.org

There is no special role for Officers and the Board in changing these documents. Having said that, we will review the documents, and proposed changes at an extended Board meeting this month. The Board meeting will begin at Noon rather than the usual 1:00 PM. Please join us to discuss changes to these documents.

Assuming there is consensus on proposed changes after the December meeting, the proposed revised documents will be advertised and distributed, according to our current By-Laws, hopefully before the January meeting, at which time we may vote on their acceptance.

Baby Quaker Survivors

Cliff Patterson

I raise baby Quakers and other birds and sell them at bird fairs around the Midwest, along with several lines of bird toys, sleeping tents, boings, etc. I used to get my merchandise and babies to the fairs in a big old white Chevy van.

A couple years ago, on the way home from a bird fair, I was on an expressway going through a one-lane construction zone when some fool decided to jam on his brakes. The whole line of traffic made an emergency stop, but my brakes grabbed only on one side. My van suddenly made a left turn into the median, flipped on the left side and skidded fifty feet through the mud before stopping.

What happens when a van full of bird toys flips on its side and stops suddenly? You got it. Everything comes up front. I found myself unhurt, but buried under a huge pile of bird toys. As I unbuckled myself and was digging myself out, it suddenly hit me . . . *THE BABIES!* What had happened to the babies?

Then I heard an anxious little chirp from overhead. I looked up, and there was the baby carrier, still strapped into the passenger seat, with a row of worried little black eyes looking through the holes! I retrieved the carrier and checked them out and was happy to find that except for being a little mussed up, they were all fine. They sure needed a lot of cuddling and reassuring, though!

The story has a happy ending. I was fine, the babies were fine, and once it was righted, the van was fine except for losing a mirror. The bird toys were all jumbled up, but nothing broke except for a few acrylic toys. I was very lucky.

I always strap my carrier into a seat with a seat belt, and that was what saved my babies. They only traveled a few inches and bounced off the wall of the carrier, rather than becoming a projectile that would have smashed into the dashboard and undoubtedly killed them. Even if they didn't die on impact, the cage would have broken open and they would have been loose in the wreckage.

Remember this story. Whether you use a carrier or a small cage, always strap your birds in when they are traveling with you in a car