

Squawk 'n Talk

Volume 9, Issue 10

November 2009

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

November is the month that we solicit nominations for club officers whose terms will expire at the end of the year. If you haven't already begun thinking of whom you would like to be officers & board members, now is the time to do so. And, don't be shy to nominate yourself! You must be a member in good standing (dues paid up) and have attended at least four (4) meetings within the previous 12 months. The election will take place at the December 13 meeting (second Sunday). Be sure to attend these important Club meetings.

The December meeting will also be our "Holiday Party" meeting where we get together for games, fun, and good fellowship (and good food, too!). Please come and join in the fun. More about the party during our November meeting. Again, please note: the December meeting is on the second Sunday in December - Dec. 13, 2009.

I would like to thank Phyllis Cotton, our Vice President, for chairing the October meeting in my absence. I would also like to thank Trey Shaffer for taking the Minutes for the past two months in Cathy Wendler's absence.

Pat Burnett of Personal Prints will be at the November meeting. Don't forget to bring your photos, printed or digital, if you want to order anything from her.

See you at the meetings! Dave

Tidbits

Quiet Month – It has been a very quiet month in newsletter land... This is reflected in the abbreviated size of this edition. So let me underscore my standing call for articles... There are a select few out there that compose from scratch, either under their own names or their birds'. That is great. Send 'em in. These are also nice because we share them with The Real Macaw Club in New Jersey/New York. If you don't feel like the author/composer, be a "scout". Find an article you like and let me know about it... Better yet, contact the author/publisher and ask if we can reprint it in our newsletter. (If you don't do this step, I will.) Most non-commercial organizations are happy to share. If you are the Tribune Media Group, not so much.

Your Civic Duty – November/December nominations/elections. Dave mentioned it, so I'm just reminding... Nominate! Vote!

Personal Prints – Just a reminder, that Pat Burnett will be at our November meeting. Pat's business is putting pictures on things. So if you would like your bird on your coffee mug, or your spouse on your tee shirt, bring in the picture and talk to Pat...

Book Picks of the Month

Christine Kinkade

Here are the library picks for this month. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a book request, and I will bring the book to the next GPC meeting. A complete listing of books and videos can be found on the GPC website (www.GatewayParrotClub.org).

Guide To The Quaker Parrot by Mattie Sue Athan

Here is everything you need to know about caring for and training your Quaker parrot. Although this book is primarily about the Quaker parrot, the first aid and medical care section can be related to any parrot. The book also lists the things you will need for a home emergency kit. Dozens of full-color photos and illustrations. (122 pages).

Caring For Your Pet Bird by Dr. R. Dean Axelson

A "how-to" approach for the owners of all types of cage birds, by a veterinary surgeon with years of experience in treating birds and answering their owners' questions. Contains information on the cage and home environments, tips on care, feeding your bird, sicknesses and common diseases, diets, and more. Several b&w illustrations. (160 pages).

First Aid for Birds by Julie Rach with Gary A. Gallerstein

This book is for pet owners that focus on administering first aid to birds. You will learn step-by-step information on emergency situations, how to quickly save your bird's life by taking actions, and how to prevent emergencies by feeding your bird a balanced diet, regularly trimming his wings and nails, and bird-proofing your home. Several color photos. (126 pages).

The Bird Care Book by Sheldon L. Gerstenfeld

All you need to know to keep your bird happy and healthy. Contains charts to diagnose and treat ailments, step-by-step first aid, and nutrition and exercise training. (229 pages).

GPC members can check out any of these featured picks at this month's meeting. Please note that some books are quite old and some of the information may be a little outdated. Please keep this in mind when reading the books.

A complete listing of the GPC library is available on the GPC website www.GatewayParrotClub.org. If you wish to check out any of these, or any of our books, please contact me prior to the next GPC meeting by phone (636) 343-8097, or email at

Librarian@GatewayParrotClub.org, and I will bring them to the next meeting.

All books checked out should be returned at the following GPC meeting. If that is not possible, please return the books by mail to Christine Kinkade, 2412 Angela Dr., High Ridge, MO. 63049-2848.

Happy reading!

Christine

Veterinary Behaviorist and Clinical
Behavior Medicine;
Feather Damaging Behavior

January 2005

This article is for the use of member clubs only and is protected by U.S. Copyright laws. Use by any group or organization not currently enrolled in the AAV Client Education Program, is strictly prohibited.

Jeleen A. Briscoe, VMD,

Ilana R Reisner, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVB,

Karen Rosenthal, DVM, MS, Dipl ABVP, DVM, Dipl Avian

The American College of Veterinary Behaviorists was established in 1993. Even though avian veterinarians have struggled over the last three decades with the behavioral aspects of feather damage, veterinary behaviorists have rarely been included in these discussions. The reasons are unclear. One possible reason is the lack of familiarity with psittacine species on the part of the behaviorist. Not enough is known concerning the normal behavior of most pet bird species, and even viewing these birds as domesticated makes establishing protocols a formidable challenge.

Instead of working with veterinary behaviorists, avian veterinarians have historically relied on lay parrot behavior consultants to "correct" feather damaging behavior. Ideally, the parrot behavior consultant gathers information from the owner on the environment and the behavior of the bird and proposes behavior modification techniques and other treatments specific to

that bird. This far, there are no standards of training for lay parrot behavior consultants.

Unfortunately, it appears that only a small number of parrot behavior consultants are willing to work closely with veterinarians on the diagnosis and treatment of feather damaging behavior. Without standards or an association, no protocols can be established, peer review and scientific discussion are lacking, and advancements on this area of veterinary medicine are stymied.

Members of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists are subject to rigorous standards: they must have complete a small animal internship or its equivalent, a two or three year residency program, and have passed a certifying examination. Using this training, they bring an integrated knowledge of health, pathology, medical and pharmacological care across species to help solve complicated disorders such as feather damage in birds. Veterinary behaviorists are trained in collecting detailed behavioral histories, evaluating normal and abnormal behaviors, and understanding the development of behavioral disorders, and applying these to a treatment plan.

Obviously, feather damaging behavior is a complicated disorder. Primate research has shown that there are medical aspects of this problem that we are only beginning to comprehend. Our efforts over the last three decades have often been met with failure and discouragement. It is evident that a new approach should be taken. We propose that this new methodology incorporate the expertise of both the avian veterinarian and the veterinary behaviorist. We strongly feel that collaboration is essential if we are to have success in diagnosing and treating this complicated and frustrating disease.

Release #1, January, 2005. The Association of Avian Veterinarians welcomes membership from veterinarians with an interest in avian medicine. Annual meetings and a quarterly journal provide a format for the latest in avian medical information. Is your veterinarian a member? Individuals wishing to subscribe to the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery may write to: AAV - P.O. Box 811720 Boca Raton, FL 33481.

Recipe Cous-cous with Veggies

Posted by: Jessica

kusine@yahoo.com - May 24, 1999

- 1 2/3 cup water
- 1 cup cous-cous
- 1 medium tomato (or a handful of cherry/grape tomatoes)
- 1 small onion (or 4-5 spring onions, if you prefer)
- 1/2 green pepper
- 1/2 sweet red pepper
- 1/2 cup corn (frozen or fresh off the cob)
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tsp pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp basil, oregano, or Italian seasoning
- 1 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper

First, boil water. When water boils, stir in cous-cous, cover, and *remove from heat*. Allow to sit for five minutes. While cous-cous soaks, dice tomatoes, onion, and peppers. Combine with remaining ingredients and saute lightly (adding a little butter, margarine, or olive oil, if necessary). When cous-cous has soaked up all water, combine with veggies, stir, and serve to your feathered friend according to size. Freezes well and may be served hot or cold.

Our Mission

The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. is a not for profit organization established in 1988 to:

Bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.

Create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.

Reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.

Educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.

2009 Schedule

November 15 – Nominations for office Personal Prints

December 13 (Second Sunday) Elections and Party
--

Contact Information

We welcome your comments and suggestions...

Officers

President	Dave Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Vice President	Phyllis Cotton	(314) 537-6175
Secretary	Cathy Wendler	(636) 586-0604
Treasurer	Nancy Marron	(314) 984-9524
Membership	Niki Shaffer	(314) 853-5323

Board Members

Jim Berk	(636) 586-1445
Dawn Breer	(636) 464-8085
Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Jenn Moore	(636) 795-4384
Pat Seiler	(636) 462-4732
Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317

Committees

Education	Who? You?	
Hospitality	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Librarian	Christine Kinkade	(636) 343-8097
Ways & Means	Suzanne Mullaney	(314) 645-8888
Website		
Newsletter	Trey Shaffer	(314) 432-4317
Public Relations		