

Squawk 'n Talk

Greetings from the Presidential Perch!

Our annual All American Hookbill Fair is coming very soon. August 22 from 10:00 to 6:00. There will be LOTS of things for you to see and purchase. This is a once a year event. Don't miss it!!!

Sad news - Walter Crawford, founder of World Bird Sanctuary passed away suddenly last week. Walter had been pro active in preservation, conservation and saving, treating and releasing native raptors and other wild birds for many years. We will miss him very much. RIP Walter. We Salute You.

The plan right now is for Jeff Meshack to speak on the local peregrine falcon recovery project and tie in with the peregrine being only one branch away from psittacines on the genetic tree....much closer to parrots than other raptors

As many of you are already aware, there have been outbreaks of Avian Flu in several Poultry populations in the State of Missouri. There was also at least one recorded case here St Louis County earlier this year.

Avian Flu is apparently carried by and spread by Water Fowl. They are not getting sick with the Virus but they can be carriers and can and apparently do spread it thru fecal droppings as they migrate through areas. The Fall Migration Season is fast approaching.

Due to the potential threat of additional outbreaks this fall and winter the State of Missouri has placed a ban on bringing all Avian species into the State.

The ban is written specifically for Poultry, however Missouri is choosing to include ALL Avians in the ban. This will have a major effect on Out of State Vendors at our Fair.

I had asked The Calvary Group <http://thecalvarygroup.com> to see if they could get this thinking moderated or changed. They have been working on this specific issue for the last 5 or 6 weeks.

I'm sorry to say that The Cavalry Group wasn't successful in getting the Department of Agriculture or the Mo State Vet to move at all in their determination that Parrots be included in the Ban.

As it stands NO Parrots or Finches can, under their interpretation of the ruling, be brought into the State of Missouri for the purpose of Display, Show, or Sale.

In their opinion (Dept of AG and State Vet) this includes any bird purchased out of state and brought into Missouri as a personal pet for the duration of the (unstated and unpublished) dates of the Ban established because of Avian Flu.

They cannot control or eliminate wild water fowl as they travel but their ban on transporting birds into Missouri is their effort to eliminate any other possible source of transmission of Avian Flu. Science has found that perching birds are not susceptible to the Asian Flu but their opinion apparently is "why take a chance".

We have no choice but to notify all Out of State Vendors of this unfortunate situation.

The Calvary Group stands ready to defend any Calvary Group Member whose birds might be confiscated because if their stand. However, GPC as a Club, must take the precaution of notifying all Vendors whose birds may be in jeopardy. The last thing we would want would be for any bird(s) at our Fair to be potentially confiscated.

We will have a excellent supply of parrot Toys, Supplies, Cages, and food for your shopping pleasure. I hope you will all come to our Fair on Saturday August 22nd.

Tell your friends and spread the word thru Social Networking and any other means available. We are planning on an excellent turnout. See you on the 22nd.

Georgia

Mo Dept of Agriculture regarding the Ban and Avian Flu:

Due to the highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak, out of state poultry and other avian species will not be allowed at exhibitions in Missouri until further notice. Additional restrictions may occur if circumstances change. This does not prevent a county fair from banning poultry and other avian species exhibitions or exhibitors from making a decision to not exhibit poultry and other avian species."

What is Avian Influenza?

Avian influenza is a viral disease affecting birds. It occurs naturally and may be spread by wildlife. No human cases of these avian influenza viruses have been detected in the United States, Canada, or internationally, and there is no immediate public health concern

Bio security information from USDA:

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/2013/fsc_biosecurity_pet_birds.pdf

Those "Chunky, Monkey Cockatiels"

by Sandy Warren

www.featheredfrenzy.net
www.parrotposse.com

We all know the risks of overweight people. Heart disease, diabetes, and wear and tear on the old knee and hip joints for just a few. Believe it or not, cockatiels can suffer from obesity too. They also suffer from obesity related diseases such as fatty liver, fatty tumors, and arthritis. I hate to admit it, but I am almost the ACS Queen of obese cockatiels.

As in people, obesity in cockatiels is caused from taking in more calories than they expend in everyday life. Cockatiels in the wild fly all day looking for small grass seeds and berries. They use a lot of energy to do this. Our pampered, adored little pet or exhibition birds tend to be in a cage most of the day with food provided daily. We can control what and how much to feed. Sometimes it isn't always that easy. Many times overweight cockatiels have a diet to high in fatty seeds and nuts. However, even if you feed a good quality pellet and your bird sets and eats all day, he is likely taking in more calories than he burns.

Providing a lower calorie diet and more exercise is a good start. However, if your bird is not used to getting much exercise she/he may not be able to do much.

Your bird may not be able to fly hardly at all and even have problems breathing. I have had birds that could barely avoid a crash landing and one hen that didn't even throw out her wings. I knew she probably wouldn't so I held her over a pillow and dropped her from about 2 feet.

Taking things slowly to get your bird in condition will be a necessity for birds like mine. Provide more exercise by starting with a larger cage, and adding toys that she/he is actually interested in. Try giving most of his/her food in foraging toys. If your bird has never had foraging toys or seems to take no interest in them, taking that slowly will also be necessary. I have made the mistake of putting terribly out of condition and chunky birds in a large flight. They can't fly so they don't. They just climb to the nearest food dish and take up residence. Some will even set by the food dish all day in a larger cage. I've learned to just put a teaspoon of food in the dish and when that is gone, remove it for the day. I always make sure they have plenty of fresh water.

Interact with your bird with toys or a perch. I have them out on baskets too. They tend to do the "feed me" dance if they are in the cage. I can't hardly take that.

Once your bird gets into a bit better condition, you can put them in a larger flight cage or a walk in flight.

Then it's boot camp time. Put perches only at each end of the flight and the food dish in the bottom in the middle. The bird has to fly from one perch to another and actually fly down to get food. Take steps right way to get your bird in more healthy habits.

Work with your avian veterinarian to come up with a plan that you can both live with. Include plans for a healthy diet, treats that are not just calories but also provide for nutritional needs, and more activity.

To give him more activity, provide a larger cage, so he can move around more; use foraging toys so he has to work to get his food; and give him plenty of opportunities to exercise. Offer interactive and foraging cage toys to keep him working and learning.

Give supervised time outside the cage. Let him perch on your arm and move your arm up and down so he exercises his wings. Use play stands and baskets often to prevent boredom and encourage socialization.

I speak from experience about these little chunky monkeys and I understand how hard it is to change things up on them. The ultimate goal here is a happy and healthy bird that will be with you for years. With that in mind, it makes changes a little easier.

Upcoming Events:

August 22 All-American Hookbill Fair

November 15 Nominations

December 13 Elections, Holiday Party

Not a member yet?

[Download a membership application](#) and bring it to our next meeting, or email it to

Al Marks, our membership secretary membership secretary, at membership@gatewayparrotclub.org.

Our new PayPal email address is payments@gatewayparrotclub.org

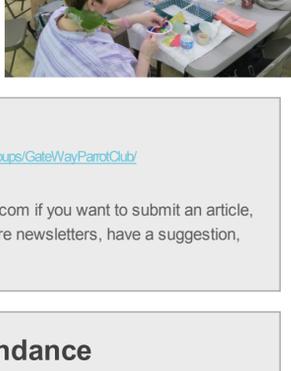
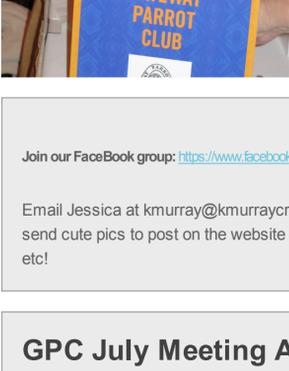
You can also now join and pay dues securely from our site: <http://gatewayparrotclub.org/join-now/>

Our Officers and Board members: <http://gatewayparrotclub.org/about-us/>

The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc. is a 501c3 not for profit organization based in St. Louis Missouri and 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.

[Become a Member Now](#)



Join our FaceBook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GateWayParrotClub/>

Email Jessica at kmurray@kmurraycreative.com if you want to submit an article, send cute pics to post on the website or future newsletters, have a suggestion, etc!

GPC July Meeting Attendance

Here's the list of attendees at our annual toy making party meeting in July:

Members:

Georgia Fletcher	Heidi Hellmuth
Dick Grommet	Linda Kraft
David Kinkade	Edwin Massie
Al Marks	Jessica Murray
Nancy Marron	Sandy Newcomb
Renee Davis	Penny O'Grady
Carole Grommet	Rick Ruderer
Christine Kinkade	Pat Seiler
Janet Marks	Kristen Smith
Hannah Welby	Gerry Van Der Heide
Dawn Breer	Deborah Van Der Heide
Cindy Burquin	Pam Walsh
Phyllis Cotton	Sandy Warren
Janet Draper	Savannah Davis

Guests:

Ginny Feikert	Abigail May
Christine Kern	Maya Steele
Colleen Kern	Tori Wamsted
Aubre Kiener	Michael Ward
Liam Mamnstedt	Linda Ward
Adeline May	