

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
FOSTER PARROTS, LTD. &
The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**



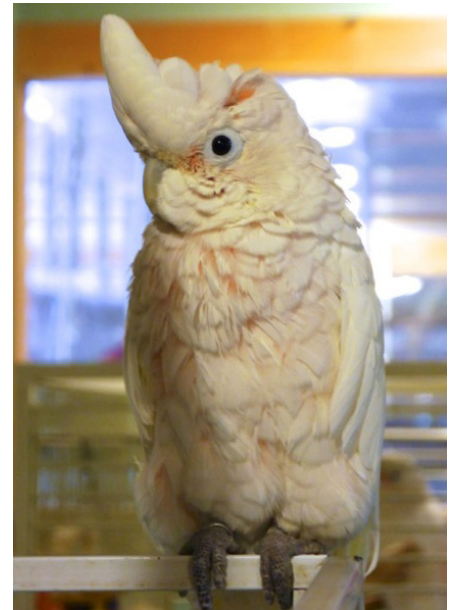
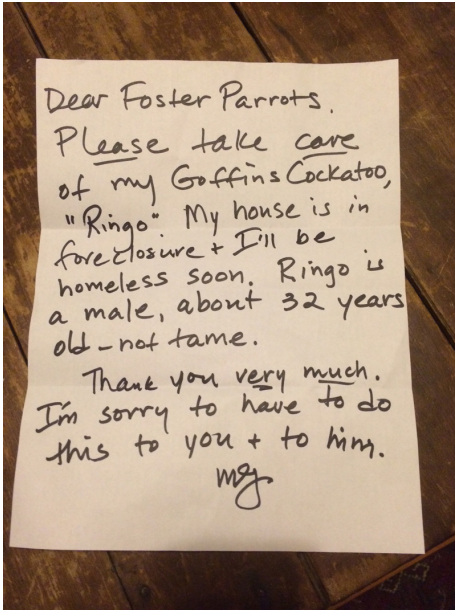
Moluccan Cockatoo Noelle - Photo by Brian Jones

Summer & Fall 2016

It seems we've barely had time to open the outdoor aviaries to welcome the summer and we're already looking ahead to the fall, beginning preparations for our **9th Annual Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza**, which is scheduled for **September 17th** this year. Mark your calendars and order your tickets! It's going to be a full house and a great event! Full details can be found on the last pages of the newsletter.

As always, we're heading into summer with a full schedule of construction on the calendar in our on-going quest to transform an old chicken farm into a beautiful sanctuary retreat. Not only do we strive to provide a high quality of life for resident birds and animals, but we also work to offer a meaningful educational experience to visitors by connecting them to the lives of our parrots, and helping them to understand the monumental challenges faced by these intelligent and highly sensitive creatures in captivity. One of the greatest difficulties faced by birds kept as pets, of course, is the likelihood that they will, at some point, find themselves in need of a new home. With unwanted birds vastly outnumbering homes willing to take them, it is our hope that some of the articles and information offered by Foster Parrots can provide valuable insight and ideas that can help keep parrots with their people.

A Cockatoo Named Ringo



The hand scrawled note attached to the cardboard box read, “Dear Foster Parrots... Please take care of my Goffins Cockatoo, Ringo. My house is in foreclosure and I’ll be homeless soon. Ringo is a male, about 32 years old – not tame. Thank you very much. I’m sorry to have to do this to you and to him.”

The box had been sealed with packaging tape and left on the front porch of our home. We were grateful that Ringo had not been more motivated to escape the box; it would normally take a cockatoo mere minutes to chew through cardboard. We have no idea what time it was when the box was left on our porch, but it was near midnight when my son arrived home to discover it.

We wheeled a spare cage into the living room, preparing as well as we could for our unexpected guest, and then we carefully opened the box. Out popped Ringo, confused and terrified. I offered my hand, which he rejected. In full alarm mode with his eyes wide and his crest raised, he scampered past me across the floor, then he saw the cage. This was something he understood, something that represented safety to him. He walked across the floor, climbed up and put himself inside.

Ringo’s story carries so many important messages and reflects critical aspects of the lives of parrots in captivity. One of the most significant details of his life is the fact that, despite Ringo’s complete lack of any level of human socialization or “tameness”, somebody kept him for what appears to be a very long time – and that is unusual and commendable. How many people are willing to care for a parrot on its own terms without the expectation of reciprocated love or affection? The next significant detail is the realization that, when a bird who is not tame loses his home, there are no homes for them to go to. Even rescue organizations will reject parrots whom they feel they will be unable to place. Had Ringo’s guardian reached out to Foster Parrots prior to abandoning him on our doorstep, would we have accepted him into our care? Maybe not. We are full to capacity and run a very long waiting list of birds in need of homes. When a parrot is admitted into the sanctuary there must be a plan and a place for that bird. Admission is a process and represents a complicated journey for the new bird as well as for our staff and volunteers. But the undeniable fact is, Ringo is precisely the kind of parrot who needs sanctuary.

Of course, the most outstanding detail of Ringo’s ordeal is the fact that was abandoned due to tragic and uncontrollable events in the life of his guardian. Extreme situations like this – economic hardship, loss of a residence or compulsory residential moves, serious medical issues, old age or death – are some of the most frequent reasons we hear for parrots losing their homes.

In challenging times there are certain ways in which Foster Parrots can help. Thanks to the compassion of our sanctuary vet and support from funders like The Rhode Island Foundation, The Pat Palmer Foundation and The Vincent P. Coates Foundation, Foster Parrots can sometimes cover emergency veterinary costs so that guardians are not forced to relinquish their birds due to their inability to afford critical veterinary care. Our outstanding parrot adoption network, NEPPCO, provides a safety net for many birds in need of services. We can sometimes locate short-term foster care for parrots whose people are experiencing temporary hardship or life transitions. But as guardians, when we make a commitment to the care of a parrot - or any animal - it is important to consider the long term implications of that commitment and to plan not only for unforeseeable circumstances that might impact our ability to continue to care for our pets, but for the inevitable fact of our own mortality – especially when our pet is a parrot. Legal estate planning is important, but perhaps most important of all is assessing what kind of a support system we have in place in the event that life takes an unexpected turn.

Ringo is now a resident at the sanctuary. With no affinity for humans, his best chance for happiness will be finding an avian companion or an aviary into which he can be successfully integrated. Many challenges lie ahead for the staff and volunteers at the sanctuary as we search for solutions, and for a lost little bird who found himself in a box on a porch one chilly April night.

Changing The Way We Keep Parrots An Advice Column

Dear Foster Parrots,

I have 5 parrots who I must find a new home for. I have had them for 15 years and I love them, but my life situation has changed and I now work long hours. They do not get enough attention. They need a home that can give them the love and attention that they deserve. Two of them are conures who are bonded to one another and should not be separated. The others are an African grey and two Amazons who get along well but are not bonded. I think they could be separated if necessary. Please help! They are great birds. I just can no longer give them what they need. I appreciate your assistance. – Joan



Dear Joan,

Thanks so much for reaching out. We are sorry to hear of the changes in your life that have precipitated your decision to re-home your parrots. We understand your love and concern for your birds. The tragic fact is - most people's lives are just like yours. People work. People travel. People all have busy, full schedules, and the level of one-on-one interaction that any parrot requires is beyond the capability of most human beings.

The best home for your parrots is probably right there with you. You may feel that they do not receive adequate support from you and they may solicit your attention at every turn, but the fact is that your five parrots form their own flock within your home. They provide companionship for one another. They may *want* you, but they don't *need* you for their social fulfillment. They have each other. The best thing you can do for them is to enhance their lives as a flock by providing them with a stimulating home environment that can keep them engaged and entertained throughout their days. Networks of branches arranged on cage tops, a series of swings or play frames suspended from the ceiling, ropes, ladders or large nets for climbing and a variety of toys, puzzles and chewing enrichment are all items that can be creatively applied to provide smart parrots with interesting and stimulating things to do every day.

At Foster Parrots we believe that it is beneficial to the mental health and social behavior of parrots to have other birds present in the home. This helps remove human guardians from the unenviable obligation of being the Center of the Universe for a parrot. In this role we will never fail to disappoint. Ironically, it is the guilt we feel, thinking we are failing our birds, that precipitates us removing them from our home. This doesn't really solve the problem. It just makes it someone else's problem – and adds to the overwhelming crisis of unwanted parrots being carried on the shoulders of the rescue community.

What if, instead of keeping parrots as single pets, keeping small flocks in the home became the expected standard? And what if we collectively upheld the expectation that our parrots derive their most essential form of social support from one another? And what if our motivations for bringing parrots into our lives in the first place were rooted in our desire to offer our own homes as "sanctuaries"?

Your birds still need you! They want you to be a part of the flock. It's important to set aside time periodically or establish a home routine that includes you in their lives, but you don't have to be *their entire life*. Let them rely on one another. You can just be the frosting on the cake.

Major Gift Announcement! The DJ&T Foundation \$163,500 Capital Development Grant

With a heavy schedule of construction on the calendar in 2016 – 2017, we are proud to announce that Foster Parrots received a generous Capital Development Grant this year in the amount of \$163,500 from Bob Barker's foundation, The DJ&T Foundation. This important grant is being used to fund on-site workers cabins and a whole house fire alarm system for the sanctuary. Both of these items are critical for the security of the sanctuary and the safety of our resident birds and animals.

One of Hollywood's most dedicated animal philanthropists, Bob Barker founded the DJ&T Foundation in honor of his late wife, Dorothy Jo, and his mother, Tilly, both of whom were passionate animal rights advocates. Words cannot express the depth of our gratitude to Mr. Barker, not only for his gift to Foster Parrots, but for the ways in which he has empowered so many animal welfare organizations to carry out their invaluable efforts on behalf of animals everywhere.



Bob Barker and Federico



© hippoworks.com

Sanctuary Development 2016

2016 promises to be one of our most challenging and transformative years yet. Construction projects now underway include a series of new and upgraded aviaries, installation of new windows throughout the sanctuary for increased light and air flow, a new turtle pond, a planted iguana environment, renovated quarantine room and on-site worker's cabins. All of our progress is possible thanks to the dedication of our staff and volunteers and the consistent support of the foundations who believe in our mission and invest in our success. We are also deeply grateful for the support we have received from businesses and corporations in our local community who have embraced our work on behalf of the birds and animals, providing discounted services and working to help us reach our goals within a strictly limited budget.



Special Thanks to Our Generous Community Partners:

Jason Holland
JNJ Construction & Excavation

Sergio Cherenzia
Cherenzia & Associates. Ltd/
Surveying & Engineering

Brian Ballou
Ballou Electrical Services & Training

Glenn J. Blacklock
Architect

Big Thanks to Our Skilled Construction Crew:

Rick Van Tuyl
Patrick Schofield
Travis Moonschein
Sean Maze
Jimmy Dushkewicz



Sustainable Community Relationships!

In addition to volunteering his time and talent to the sanctuary, our good friend, Travis Moonschein, is a member of the Local 829 Scenic Painter's Union of New England. Recently, after completing work on "Patriot's Day", an upcoming film about the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, Travis connected Foster Parrots with Set Construction Coordinator, Ted Suchecki, who organized a massive donation of construction materials left over from the set including lumber, plexiglass, paints, doors, bricks and other building items valued at over \$10,000. Relationships like this not only benefit the sanctuary tremendously, but help other local industries maintain sustainable building practices by reusing and recycling excess materials. Many thanks to Travis and Ted Suchecki!



Hatched To Fly Free: Parrot Rescue, Rehabilitation and Repopulation in Costa Rica

There's nothing quite as magical as watching dozens of parrots fly in to roost at the end of a long, hot day in Costa Rica, especially when several of those birds are now flying free again thanks to our partner, Chris Castles and Hatched To Fly Free. Rescued parrots, new construction and new partnerships in Costa Rica have kept us all busy for the first half of the year, but HTFF is still a new project with a long road ahead. Here are some highlights from the year so far.



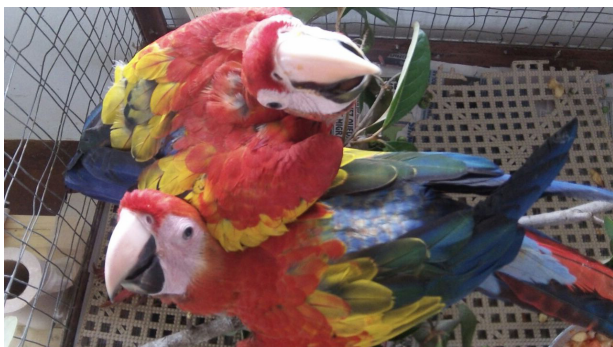
Clara, a brown throated conure, and Trevor, an orange chinned parakeet, both came to HTFF as hatchlings, having been rescued from fallen nests, one of which resulted in the death of Trevor's sibling. Both babies needed to be hand fed until they were mature enough to eat on their own. Part of HTFF's job is to familiarize rescued parrots with natural foods they can find in the forest so that they can learn to forage and eat independently in the wild. Clara and Trevor were raised together and have become fast friends. Now almost completely independent, they fly like little darts

and sometimes join the local flock of wild orange chinned parakeets. They return nightly for a dinner feast on the feeding platform and occasionally fly in for a visit. Eventually they will have less need for their human caregivers, which is precisely what we want for them.



Red lored Amazons, Pirate and Louie, were released from the rehab aviary for their first freedom flight in May of this year. Pirate, an old Amazon, had been kept as a pet and was brought to HTFF after having been attacked by a dog. While her distant history is a mystery, her initial fears about freedom were evident, suggesting she may have been captive for many years. Pirate and the youngster, Louie, became fast friends during their months in the rehabilitation aviary. Louie, having been found as a baby and kept as a pet by an Indian family, was only about 6 months old when he was relinquished to HTFF. Maintained on a poor diet of masa flour, rice and beans, Louie's feathers were a shocking yellow upon

his arrival. A significant upgrade in his diet over the past year has brought his color back to brilliant green. Pirate and Louie have been rehabbed and released and now spend their days together in freedom, foraging in the forest and communicating with the local flocks of red lored Amazons. They return to the HTFF compound only at night to roost.



Ah - the macaws! Nothing is more dear to Chris' heart than these magnificent birds who lured him from New Zealand a decade ago and keep him tethered to Costa Rica by red feather chains. HTFF recently received two poached scarlet macaw babies who arrived in very poor condition. Though they have a long road ahead, they are steadily improving under Chris' care.

Further north there is more happy baby macaw news! HTFF's new collaboration with the Gaia Hotel in Quepos has resulted in an active nest containing not two but THREE baby scarlets! This is an unusual occurrence. The proud parents aggressively defend their nest and are proving to be skilled at parenting. This represents the first active nest to produce macaw chicks in the Manuel Antonio area in over 40 years.

Hatched To Fly Free Needs Your Support!
Please consider making a one-time donation or signing up for monthly reoccurring donations
Through the Foster Parrots website at: www.fosterparrots.com
Make sure to designate your donation to HTFF!

**Foster Parrots, Ltd. &
The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary**
Sanctuary Adoption Humane Education Conservation



**Foster Parrots' 9th Annual
Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza**
Takes place this year on
Saturday, September 17th
12:00p.m. – 6:30p.m. in Hope Valley, Rhode Island

Join us for an unforgettable day of fun, food and festivities as we raise critical funding for the care of the birds and animals at The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary, and the continuation of all the work of Foster Parrots, Ltd!



Tickets are \$65.00 and are available on line
By visiting www.fosterparrots.com

Or

By sending your check to:
Foster Parrots, Ltd.
PO Box 650 Rockland, MA 02370

FEATURING

**Live Music by
The Adam Ezra Group!**

- ❖ Open house sanctuary tours!
- ❖ Champagne welcome and open beer & wine bar!
- ❖ Spectacular raffle & silent auction!
- ❖ Guest non-profit and vender displays!
- ❖ Tantalizing vegetarian buffet dinner!

**PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE NEW ENGLAND EXOTIC WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
& THE WORK OF FOSTER PARROTS, LTD. THROUGH AN EVENT SPONSORSHIP!**



GREEN FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR - \$500

- *Company or individual listing as a Green Feather Level sponsor in our event program!*
- *Your company logo displayed on event posters!*
- *Receive 2 complimentary event tickets!*



BLUE FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR - \$1,000

- *Company or individual listing as a Blue Feather Level Sponsor with a ½ page ad or dedication in our event program!*
- *Your company logo displayed on event posters throughout the sanctuary!*
- *Receive 4 complimentary event tickets and 5 raffle tickets!*



RED FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR - \$2,000

- *Company or individual listing as a Red Feather Level Sponsor with a FULL page ad or dedication in our event program!*
- *Your company logo and advertisement displayed on BANNERS at the event*
- *Your name ENGRAVED ON A PLAQUE as an official 2015 Aviary Sponsor (aviary of your choice)*
- *Receive 4 complimentary event tickets and 5 raffle tickets!*



GOLD FEATHER LEVEL SPONSOR - \$5,000

- *Company or individual listing as a Gold Feather Level Sponsor with a FULL PAGE ad or dedication in our event program*
- *Your company logo and advertisement displayed on BANNERS at the event*
- *NAMING RIGHTS on the Aviary of your choice (Title Plaque)!*
- *Reserve a 10-top table and receive 10 raffle tickets!*

**Yes! I am excited to attend the 2016 Annual Fall Fundraiser Extravaganza at
The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary!**

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____ @ \$65./EACH TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$ _____

OR

_____ YES! I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR THE EVENT! SPONSORSHIP AMOUNT: \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

Event sponsors will be contacted to obtain company or dedication information, logos and art for the program listing, event posters, banners and aviary plaques. Please provide your day-time contact information here:

PHONE NUMBER: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

_____ SORRY! I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND BUT PLEASE ACCEPT MY DONATION OF \$ _____

**FOSTER PARROTS, LTD.
PO BOX 650
ROCKLAND, MA 02370**