

Parrot Scoop

December 2002 Issue

Aloha Parrot Association



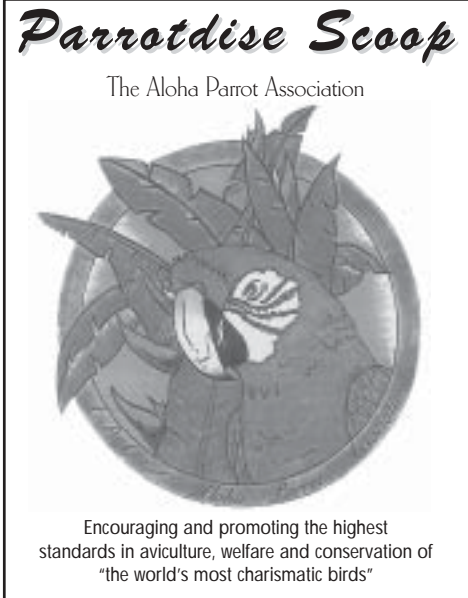
Encouraging and promoting the highest standards in aviculture, welfare and conservation of "the world's most charismatic birds"

ALOHA PARROT ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

P.O. Box 6309

Honolulu, HI 96818-0309



A.P.A. BIRDIE RULES:

- Sick birds are prohibited from Club functions.
- New birds must have completed a 30-day quarantine period before bringing the birds to a Club function.
- Baby birds must be kept in appropriate containers.
- Birds that have been boarded with other birds must complete a 30-day quarantine period before bringing to a Club function.
- Guests are discouraged from bringing birds to our meetings. If they are brought to an outdoor function, the birds are to be separated from other members' birds.
- If a bird has attended meetings, members are to report to the Club president any birdie illnesses so other member may be informed.

DISCLAIMER: The opinions expressed by individual writers are not necessarily those of the Parrot Paradise Scoop or Aloha Parrot Association as a whole. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit any and all submissions. Aloha Parrot Association assumes no responsibility or liability regarding consequences resulting from any articles or advertisements in Parrot Paradise Scoop. Reprinting material from Parrot Paradise Scoop is allowed with credit given to the author, Parrot Paradise Scoop and Aloha Parrot Association.

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Past President Kathy Perreira



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2002 & 2003

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| December 8, 2002 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Christmas Party BBQ - Pat & Butch's 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring gift (approx. \$10.00) for gift exchange)</i> |
| January 5, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |
| February 2, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |
| March 2, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |
| April 6, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |
| May 4, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |
| June 1, 2003 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Club Meeting & Potluck - Blaisdell Park 1:00 p.m.
<i>*Bring a covered dish</i> |



APA meeting minutes November 3, 2002

By Debbie Eugenio Wiss

Our Annual Christmas Party is just around the corner! This year it will be on the second Sunday next month, December 8th at 1 PM at Butch and Pat's home in Waianae. There will be a hula show, music, lots of food, drink and raffles. Butch and Pat will be donating a Sun Conure and cage to be raffled off.

We are asking each member to bring a wrapped gift (\$10. value) for the gift exchange. Also bring either a salad or dessert to the party. Don't forget to bring your babies!

We will also be having Officer Nominations for the upcoming year. Dr. Hisanaga was not able to make it to our November meeting, but we will try and have him come out for our December Party. Butch mentioned that the breeding season has been slow this year.



Why Parrots Bite

- Author Unknown -

A parrot's beak is made of keratin, just like human fingernails. It has two basic parts the upper and lower mandible. The mandibles are hinged to the parrot's skull which gives the upper and lower mandible separate vertical movement. Their beaks grow continuously so parrots need constant sources for chewing to help wear down their beaks and keep them in good condition. Parrots can produce a lot of pressure when pressing the upper and lower mandible together. Cracking nuts is as easy as pie.

Birds communicate using vocal skills and body language. Beaks are used to explore their surroundings and environment. Some parrot species use their beaks as a third foot to grasp, to climb, to step up, and to hold nuts or toys.

Biting is one of the behavioral problems bird owners fear the most. Anyone who has ever been bitten by a large parrot can certainly understand the fear of being bitten.

One of the most common reasons birds bite is out of fear. A bird's body language can give you clues to behavior. When parrots feel threatened they will react in a variety of ways, including running away, screaming, flailing their wings, hissing, growling, posturing, and biting.

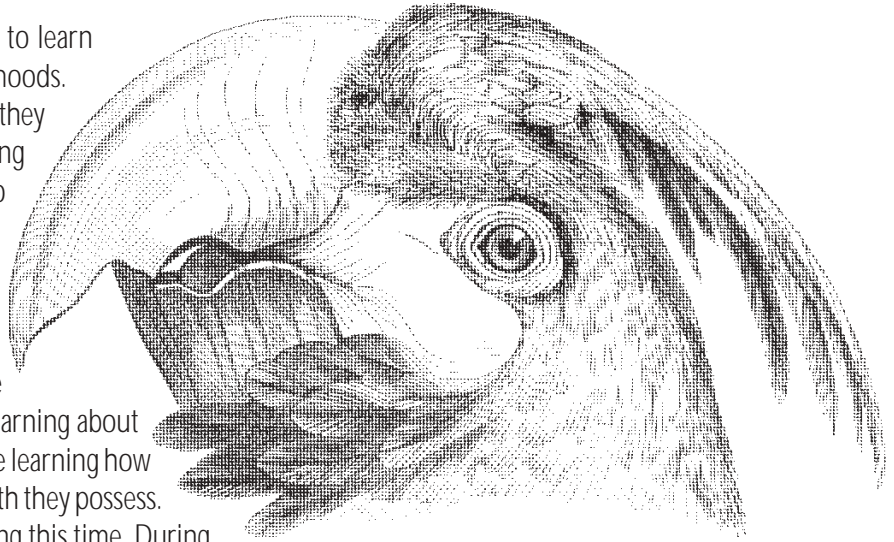
Some of the things that can make parrots feel threatened or nervous are: invading their territory, strangers (lack of trust), changes in their environment, disturbing them when attention is not wanted, unexpected noises, sudden movements, jealousy, negative reinforcement (which has become a habit), abuse, or neglect.

Another common reason that causes birds to bite is protecting their mate. If your bird has chosen you for a mate and your bird perceives impending danger, he/she may bite you to try to chase you away from what he/she perceives as a dangerous situation. Your bird may feel that unfamiliar people, new birds, or new pets pose a threat to your safety. In these situations it is best to slowly introduce your bird to the new person, pet, or object, giving your pet enough time to accept and adjust to the change.

Birds may also bite out of frustration from lack of attention. Pet birds who are ignored and left in their cages for extended periods of time may take their frustration out on their owners by biting. Giving the bird attention and time out of the cage may curb the biting.

Hormone changes can trigger some aggressiveness and cause biting. Birds who are molting or going through hormonal changes during the breeding season may become tense, moody, and irritable which may lead to biting and other negative behaviors. During these periods watch your birds body language and leave your bird alone when attention is not desired. Be patient and wait for the cycle to run it's course. -- continued on page 6--

To prevent your bird from biting, you need to learn and understand your birds personality and moods. Learning when they want attention and when they need privacy will help prevent from getting bitten in the first place. Exposing birds to change on a regular basis will teach birds to be more trusting of new objects, new people and unfamiliar sounds.



Most young birds go through a stage where they are exploring their surroundings and learning about their environment. During this stage birds are learning how to use their beaks and don't realize the strength they possess.

It is important to teach birds not to bite during this time. During this time do not allow your bird to nibble on your fingers, ears, or other body parts. Juvenile birds who were hand-fed may still think "fingers" are food. Newly weaned birds may be gentle when nibbling on your finger but can bite considerably harder as they grow up. Be consistent, otherwise your bird will be confused when he/she is suddenly not allowed to nibble on you anymore.

When birds try to nibble on you give them an acceptable alternative to chew on and in a firm voice tell them no. Offer them a carrot, apple slice, foot held toy, block of wood, piece of leather, etc. to chew on instead of your fingers. If the toy or food doesn't distract them from your fingers, gently blow in their face and say NO. Some birds learn really quickly not to bite while others may take a few weeks.

Try not to disturb your bird when his body language is saying "leave me alone". If your bird is napping, fluffs up his feathers, or lunges at you he/she is saying I am busy right now. If you try and play with him/her anyway, your bird may bite you to communicate that he/she doesn't want any attention at the moment.

If your bird bites you really hard, try not to negatively reinforce the biting by giving the bird a reaction. Sometimes shouting OUCH, screaming, or yelling can be so appealing to the bird that he will bite you again to get the same reaction out of you.

If blowing in your bird's face and, firmly saying NO, doesn't stop your bird from biting within a few weeks, then you can try "time out periods". Immediately after being bitten, firmly tell your bird NO, and put your bird in his/her cage or other designated area of the home, carrier, cage, or play stand for a "time out". Completely ignore your bird during the entire duration of the designated time out period. Do not interact with your bird verbally or visually. After the time out is over, begin to interact with your bird and reward your bird for desired behavior with praise, head scratches, or a favorite treat.

You can also try covering your bird's cage during the time out period. This may help calm down an agitated, aggressive or frightened bird.

NEVER hit your bird or drop him/her to the floor. This is abuse and can physically and emotionally harm your bird. The "earthquake" and "wobble" methods are described as gently shaking or wobbling your arm to throw the bird off balance, thus preventing your bird from being able to bite. It is my opinion that both of these methods are detrimental to a birds emotional health. These methods may teach your bird that your arm is NOT a safe place to perch and may break the trust that your pet has in you.



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CLASSIFIED ADS





ALOHA PARROT ASSOCIATION
Since 1994

Aloha Parrot Association was formed and organized to promote and encourage better breeding, nutritional education and proper care of psittacines (parrots) amongst breeders, pet owners and fanciers. You do not have to own a parrot to become a member. The only requirement is to have an interest in parrots and aviculture. The association allows members to meet others with similar interests.

To join and start receiving our newsletter*, please complete and return this application with your check to: **ALOHA PARROT ASSOCIATION**

Annual Dues

Single - \$15.00

Family - \$20.00

A.P.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

DATE _____ STATUS: Single () Family ()

NAME(S) _____

E-mail address(es): _____, _____

Last four digits of SSN _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

Do you breed birds? () Yes () No

What type of birds most interest you? _____

What type of bird(s) do you have? _____

How long have you owned a bird(s)? _____

How did you come to know the A.P.A.? () Member () Friend () Other _____

If recommended by a member, member's name _____

* Newsletters are available at the monthly club meetings. We will be able to mail one to you if you are unable to attend a meeting for a fee of \$1.00 per issue while supplies last - please request in writing

