



## PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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## President's Message

It's been great to finally get a respite from the hot Texas summer months. Hopefully, like me, everyone else is getting a breather from the main breeding season—evaluating pairs and their health, doing necessary repairs and renovations to facilities, and planning next year's production and sales.

**Ongoing legislative issues**—Animal-related and, in many cases, anti-breeding legislation are ongoing issues—in the U.S. and elsewhere. Aviculturists and other animal industry individuals and groups are realizing they all need to come together to battle the bad AR-backed bills all over the country.

\* AB 2862, CA – Neutralized onerous piece of API legislation.

\* NAIS –Talent-Emerson bill attempts to prohibit the USDA from mandatory reporting requirements.

\* PAWS – Appears to be dead this year but will be back next year.

\* HEART – Anti-breeding, non-animal-friendly legislation that passed in Albuquerque, NM.

**Focus on Pyrrhura conures**—In Part 3 on breeding Pyrrhura conures, Joi West has described her methods and success in breeding the P. picta picta painted conure.

For those who are unfamiliar with the P. picta roseifrons painted conure, included is an article discussing disposition, pet potential, availability, and breeding.

**PBA member services**—Your officers are working on a re-make

of the PBA web site so that it will be more user-friendly and professional in appearance, as well as more easily updated. Included also will be a refurbished logo!

**PBA officer elections**—Officer elections for 2007 are just around the corner. Our most pressing need right now is for the position of Secretary, as Kelli has said she cannot serve in that capacity next year.

*We need a dependable volunteer!*

—Marcy Covault

## PBA Officers

The PBA Officers are here to serve the needs of the organization. If you have questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions, please bring them to the list or to us for discussion. We

value every member's expertise and input, and we want to encourage teamwork and networking to further educating about and promoting the feathered jewels that are the Pyrrhura conures.

|                  |               |  |
|------------------|---------------|--|
| President        | Marcy Covault | <a href="mailto:President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com">President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com</a>         |
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| Treasurer        | June DiCiocco | <a href="mailto:Treasurer@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com">Treasurer@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com</a>         |
| Secretary        | Kelli Eager   | <a href="mailto:Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com">Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com</a>         |
| Webmaster/Editor | OPEN          | [Marcy Covault, interim]   |

## Treasurer's Report

### June DiCiocco

|                                       |                   |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning balance (June 30, 2006)     | \$3,508.01        |
| Revenue: Member dues                  | 524.87            |
| Expenses: Newsletter printing/postage | (73.39)           |
| Service charge                        | <u>(2.50)</u>     |
| Balance as of November 9, 2006        | <u>\$3,956.99</u> |

## Membership Report

### Kelli Eager

We are currently 38 members strong. We encourage each member to send along a sample newsletter and an application for membership with each bird sale.

We are working to make the PBA an organization that offers value to its members, in

the form of education, networking support for breeding issues(including legislative alerts that affect aviculturists), and Consortium oversight.

We welcome member input and comments, as well as volunteer efforts to help accomplish PBA's mission.

## Election of Officers for 2007

We are approaching that time of year again. The Nominating Committee for officers includes Kelli Eager, Elke Davis, and Deryl Davis.

The current President, Vice President, and Treasurer have agreed to run for office again, but we need a secretary nominee. If you are interested, Kelli and Elke can fill you in on time

commitments. If you are interested in one of the other positions, please let the Nominating Committee know that too. *We're flexible for good volunteers!*

PBA ballots for voting will be included in the next newsletter.

## How Easy or Difficult is Breeding Pyrrhura Conures? Part 3

*Continuing in this series is an article by Joi West on her successes in breeding the P. picta picta painted conure. We are including a second one on painteds, since they seem to be one of the most difficult Pyrrhura conures to successfully breed.*

### Breeding the Painted Conure

#### Joi West

Twenty years ago I saw a picture of the Painted conure (*P. picta picta painted*) and fell in love. When I finally was able to get two proven pairs, I was flying on Cloud 9! This is my story about these beauties and breeding them successfully.

In September 2004, I bought two pairs of unrelated proven Painted conures. Prior to picking them up at Sea-Tac Airport, I had purchased a two-cage stacked system to house them (measuring 30" wide x 20" deep x 36" tall) with nest box doors on each side and one large access door in the front. These are very close to the size cages they were housed in before I got them. I placed the stacked cages on a south facing wall in our "sunroom"— a room with a lot of windows and a lot of light. The other windows are on the east side with one window facing north.

Once I got home, I settled the birds in their cages with food, water, and fresh foods. About a week later, I received their nest boxes from the breeder and added those to their cages. The nestboxes are left up year round. Then I began to interact with them and get to know them. I didn't expect any babies for quite some time (I was hoping for spring!) so I talked to them, let them play with my hair through the bars, and let them feel my fingernails. They were so breathtakingly beautiful! I had never seen one in "real life" ... only in pictures and on the internet. These beautiful and engaging conures



have so many colors that simply do not show up in pictures.

After about two months, I added the full spectrum lighting to the top of the upper cage and the side of the lower cage. The light fixture wouldn't fit between the upper and lower cage, so the side of the cage was the best I could do. The light on the lower cage is mounted on the same size as the nestbox so no light gets inside the box.

After asking what the previous breeder fed, I got ZuPreem pellets and a good quality small hookbill/cockatiel food. I tried several brands and finally

settled on Sunseed Small Hookbill with fruits and veggies. I use this brand for several reasons: I can get it in a large bag; they like it; and it's a good quality brand which smells yummy! I also have a cuttlebone and mineral block in each cage at all times. They don't usually chew on them until they are getting ready to lay and are feeding babies. They prefer the mineral blocks that taste like strawberries. There is also a mineral perch in each cage to help keep their nails and beaks trim.

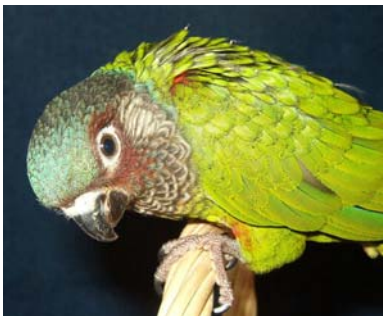
Along with the dry foods, they also get daily frozen mixed veggies (corn, peas, carrots, green beans); bean mix; wheat bread; brown rice; cooking mixes that consist of cracked corn, beans, rice, wheat berries, etc; sprouted seeds; fresh broccoli; and occasionally pasta. I offer fruits (apple, oranges, papaya w/ seeds are

their favorites) two to three times a week. I have offered other fruits like melons, mango, pineapple, and others, but they weren't interested, so I stick to what they like!

After a year and still no eggs, I began to wonder if I was going to be a successful Painted conure breeder. It can be discouraging to put the time and care into breeding and not have any eggs! Even though I knew they were challenging to breed, I wanted to be successful. They are such beautiful birds and there just aren't very many people breeding them!

So, I began to ask questions. Some breeders just said that they are temperamental and would only breed if they had a lot of privacy and quiet. Some said they may never breed. (That was even more discouraging!) I had no separate building for them to be kept—they had to be in my house. I chose the sunroom. It's situated off the kitchen, and our computer and my craft and sewing supplies are kept in the same room, so they see everyone in the family on a daily basis. Not exactly private.

I thought up ways to offer them more privacy. I bought a room divider, thinking that may help (I never got the chance to use it!). My other concern was that the sunroom has a wood-and-mirrored ceiling. I thought that might be another problem, since I was told Painteds do not like to be able to see each other. The pair in the upper cage can see themselves in the mirror! At first they did look at themselves a lot, but they have seemed to have gotten used to it now and rarely look up anymore.



I kept asking questions whenever someone else had Painteds. I kept hearing that the sunroom and the mirrors are a problem. Then the dogs were a problem. Even though they don't come out to the sunroom much, if at all, just having them was a problem. I couldn't get rid of the dogs!

Then I got some new info. I heard that they do not like light getting in to the nestbox. Their cages pointed east, which gets the early morning sun, so I moved their cages to the east wall and now the nestboxes point north, which doesn't get much light. I also heard that they need more fruit in their diet, so I began to offer more fruit and on a daily basis.

BAM!!! They began mating and laid eggs in less than a month! I thought I was on Cloud 9 before! Now I have two clutches of beautiful babies with another clutch being incubated by one of the pairs right now. The other pair has been mating again, so I may have two more clutches of Painteds. *[Update: six more babies have hatched and are being handfed and doing great!]*

I really don't think the privacy was the issue with my pairs. I think diet and lighting had the most influence. One thing I have added to their diet, especially since they have double clutched, is liquid calcium twice a week, to be sure they are getting enough. For me, it's a little surreal to have painted babies, and I sure have enjoyed sharing pictures of them and playing with them!

***The moral of my story is: never give up!***  
Keep trying and get as much info as you can, and you will be successful.

## Parrots Call Chicks by Name, German Experts Say

31 July 2006, [http://www.expatica.com/source/site\\_article.asp?subchannel\\_id=26&story\\_id=31955&RSS](http://www.expatica.com/source/site_article.asp?subchannel_id=26&story_id=31955&RSS)

HAMBURG - In a discovery that is likely to rekindle the debate about language in the animal kingdom, researchers in Germany have discovered that some parrots appear to give their offspring individual names.

Animal behavioural scientists at the University of Hamburg say that spectacled parrotlets use a distinctive call for each of their chicks, with no two chicks being given the same "name" call.

The small South American parrots also apparently have name calls for their mates. "The birds very definitely use a particular call exclusively with a particular bird and never for any other bird," says Dr. Ralf Wanker, head of the Hamburg University Zoological Institute's behavioural research laboratory.

Wanker and his team have spent years assessing video and audio recordings of parrot chatter and squawking.

"What is not yet clear, however, is whether these calls can be equated with what we would call names such as Hans or Fritz or whether they could be more generic labels such as 'my baby' or 'my mate'," he adds. "For that reason we prefer to refer to these calls as labels or name equivalents."

The studies were inspired by observations in the spectacled parrotlet's natural habitat in Colombia. There, researchers from Hamburg noted that individual parrots seemed to respond to specific calls that other parrots in the same flock ignored.

"A mother bird had the uncanny ability to utter a cry that would result in her chick returning to the nest immediately amidst the cacophony of the other parrots all around," Wanker recalls. "It was obvious that the baby knew it was being called," he says.

At the Hamburg lab, studies showed that these name equivalents are fractional cries lasting between 90 and 120 milliseconds. The cry is

distinctive enough to provide acoustic clues as to the identity of the individual uttering the call and also to the identity of the intended recipient bird.

"A mother bird uses a different call for her baby from the one she uses for her mate, and they respond with calls that correspondent to her identity," he says.

Similar findings have been achieved with certain primates and with dolphins. Many years ago, British TV science producer David Attenborough showed that macaque monkeys use distinctive alarm calls to alert other monkeys to danger.

Macaques will use one call to identify a panther, thus telling other monkeys to climb up a tree. But they will use a different call to identify a python, thus ensuring that all the monkeys climb down a tree that has a snake lurking in its branches.

The Attenborough findings are of interest because they involve primates in the wild that have had little or no contact with humans.

That contrasts with studies involving chimpanzees and gorillas in captivity in America over the past four decades which have produced startling but highly controversial evidence that primates can learn and use deaf human sign language.

Other studies have determined that birds develop regional "accents" and "dialects" depending on their location. Sparrows in the eastern United States, for example, are known to have subtly different chirps from their cousins on the west coast.

The German findings are the first involving parrots. The spectacled parrotlet is among the smallest parrots, only slightly larger than budgerigars. The bright green birds with a distinctive yellow ring around their eyes live in eastern Panama and northern Colombia.

In the Hamburg study, parent birds and their chicks were placed in separate cages within earshot of each other but out of view of each other. The birds' calls to each other were recorded and later played back to the individual birds to ascertain their response. The findings demonstrated that name-specific calls were used by each bird.

Wanker shies away from calling this labeling behaviour any form of language, noting that it has yet to be proved conclusively whether humans are the only animals capable of abstract linguistic structures.

He also notes that a fierce debate has been raging for decades among ornithologists and linguists over whether songbirds might be using a form of language. But he points out that, in the avian world, parrots are a special case.

"Parrots are unique among avians," he says. "They are the primates of the avian world and are very highly developed creatures with complex social systems and prodigious cognitive skills."

The Hamburg research group plans to expand its study to include macaws at the Hagenbeck Zoo in Hamburg.

## Those Charming Roseifrons!

*With the first importation into the U.S. in 2000, the P. picta roseifrons painted conure is still one of the best-kept avicultural secrets. This "red-headed" painted has a promising future in American aviculture. I've included a brief history and a clip of June DiCiocco's experience narrative of her first season and lessons learned. I want to also reinforce the wonderful potential of this charming painted subspecies, about which so few people outside avicultural circles have even heard. —Marcy Covault*

### Brief History

The Roseifrons (aka Rose-fronted) Conure is one of the nine subspecies of the Painted Conure. In 1996, an *AFA Watchbird* issue commented that the roseifrons was rare and expensive in Europe and had limited availability. However, this subspecies is now available in the U.S., thanks to the efforts of two breeding consortiums that imported these conures a few years ago. The first successful breeding of this subspecies was by Richard Cusick of CA, for which he was given the AFA Avy Award in 2002.

The Roseifrons originates from the river regions of the state of Amazonas in northwest Brazil and probably also from eastern Peru. The red feathers on the head extends from the cheeks, forehead and back to the nape. The red coloring increases with maturity. The first captive breeding was probably done in

1908 in Sao Paulo. The clutch size is usually four to six eggs which are incubated for 23 to 24 days.

### Roseifrons Experiences—June DiCiocco

**First year**—In 2002, I received my first pair of F1 birds from Judi Robben and then a second pair of F0 from Don Harris.

Unlike the Painted which seems to be difficult to breed at times, it has been my experience that the Roseifrons are very sweet and prolific birds.

I raise them indoors in a room just for Pyrrhuras. I am flock-housing the juveniles for the first year, and then I will separate the sexes, and those that go unsold will be flocked according to their sex. Those that are unsold will be paired (unrelated and bonded) and held for future breeding or for pair sales.



*Adult picta roseifrons painted  
Photo courtesy of Richard Cusick*

I find them affectionate, playful birds, very much like the nominate *picata* painted. I love the red head markings but anyone who knows me knows how I feel about red-headed conures.

In handfeeding these babies, I found that they have a rapid-fire feeding response. I aspirated one almost weaned male, and I realized they had to be almost restrained to be fed.

**Lessons Learned**—I have discovered if the chicks are separated just prior to when weaning begins they tame out a lot better. I have been doing this with most of my *Pyrrhuras* lately and find it tames the birds to be used for breeding, and they remain playful and non-aggressive while laying and rearing, and they allow me to interact with the clutch. This is also what I am doing with the Green Cheeks also which can get independent if raised and weaned as part of a clutch. It eliminated the pecking order when raised alone.

The Roseifrons seem to like to play with their tails also and can make a mess out of them. When they are separated, that does not happen. Once paired the tail pulling also stops.

*NOTES:*

*F0 refers to imported stock.*

*F1 is the first generation from the F0 birds*

*F2 is the stock from the F1 birds.*

*Some consortiums use C0, C1, C2 etc. as the code.*

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## Those Charming Roseifrons!

Marcy Covault

### Breeding—Setting Up Pairs

I was concerned because of the reputation (and my past experience with the nominate species of *picata* painted) that the roseifrons painted would be difficult to breed. My first pair wasn't that prolific, but I replaced the nestbox with an open-fronted sleepbox for my second pair after they surprised me with a third clutch. Typically, my *Pyrrhuras*

don't produce more than two clutches per season, and I leave their nestboxes up year round. Not this pair of roseifrons! The male of my second pair was parent-raised, so doesn't want me anywhere near him. He obviously doesn't feel that way about his handraised mate! They might not have gone to nest again, but I wasn't taking any chances.

My pairs are in indoor/outdoor flights. The smaller indoor flight is 2'Wx2'Lx3'H with a bumpout on the front for food and water, and a tall grandfather box on the front over the bumpout. A full spectrum light is hung in the middle of the "bird room," but that's more for the flights that are totally within the room, because the roseifrons have access to outdoor flights. There is a portal to an outdoor 2'Wx3'Hx5L' flight which faces a treed dappled-sunlight east.

### Disposition—Definitely Pet Quality!

I have been delighted with the temperaments of the roseifrons painted. They are alert, active, and playful, and like all *Pyrrhuras*, they are "beaky"—but not particularly nippy.

What has pleased me also is that even adults that were handfed seem to be relatively trusting.

**True story:** *This summer, the 5 year-old female from pair #1 got out of her flight into the bird room and landed on the side of another cage. I gently cupped my hands over her, making*

*kissing sounds (as that's one way I communicate with them when I bring food in the mornings), held her against my chest, kissed her beak, and put her back in the cage. She was making kissing sounds back to me and didn't struggle or offer to bite. This is typical temperament, from what I've experienced, when they are handled with gentleness and care, so that they don't fear-bite, which is their main reason*



*to bite, in my opinion (other than normal cage and nesting territoriality which increases during breeding season).*

The babies are easy to feed, like most Pyrrhuras, and they have calm, intelligent eyes that watch everything closely, as if considering every bit of their environment. They also love to be handled, and even when full-flighted, most are easy to catch, especially when it's bedtime. (I have lights that dim sequentially and signal nighttime to them. When I go the front of each of their flights, they mob me to put them up for the night.)

Like many Pyrrhura species, if they are kept in "flock" environments, even in the home, which is how mine are kept, most roseifrons will go through "flighty" periods, particularly when strangers come in. If kept separately or in twos, and particularly if then worked with just a bit, they are very sociable and touchy-feely.

Roseifrons don't get their full "red heads" until around 2 years old, so they are not as colorful as just-weaned youngsters such as the yellowsided green cheeks. But anyone who has seen a rosei youngster coloring up watches the blossoming of a little beauty, and an adult rosei in person is striking and lovely.

Good disposition coupled with beauty is precisely why I highly recommend these birds as pets.



*6 month old Roseifrons getting his red head*

## **Comparison with Other Pyrrhuras**

While many factors affect temperament, including environment and genetics, I would place the roseifrons in between green cheeks (GCs) and crimson bellied (CBs) in disposition.

Roseis are more similar to green cheeks in boldness, that is, somewhat bolder than CBs. Roseis seem to be more like CBs in mouthing tendencies, with very little tendency to bite down hard, and seem gentler in that respect than many GCs.

All three pick up sounds easily, e.g., kissing (smacking) sounds. Although none are great talkers, they often pick up a few words, spoken with a Py-accent, of course.

## **Future Breeding of the Roseifrons Painted**

I believe that breeders of roseifrons, as well as other rare species—e.g., crimson bellied, fiery shouldered, and even the nominate picta painted and pearly conures—should be conscientious about keeping lineages of these birds and in passing them on to buyers of offspring, so that genetic viability remains strong into the future.

Because the roseifrons are not as available in the U.S. as some other Py species, they will likely continue to be at the higher end of the Py pricing (as compared to green cheeks, for example) for some time to come.



## New Bird Discovered—Yarigues Brush Finch

[http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in\\_article\\_id=409237&in\\_page\\_id=1770](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/news/news.html?in_article_id=409237&in_page_id=1770)

### **SOUTH AMERICA—Striking new bird discovered**

***The Yarigues Brush Finch has striking black, yellow, and red plumage.***

A brightly coloured bird has been discovered on a remote mountain range in South America. The previously unknown species, the Yarigues Brush Finch, has striking black, yellow and red plumage.

A British expert co-led the team which made the find during the first biological expedition to the Yarigues mountains in northern Colombia.

Ms Blanca Huertas, a curator at the Natural History Museum in London, said: "The description of a new bird is a rare event in modern times."

The bird, which has the Latin name *Atlapetes latinuchus yariguierum*, differs from its closest relatives by having a black back and no white markings on its wings.

Thomas Donegan, from the Colombian bird conservation organisation Fundacion ProAves,



said: "Before we began this study, no-one knew what species lived in the Yarigues mountains and whether they needed protecting.

"Now, we are beginning to describe new taxa (types) and a national park was established in the region. It is surprising that this new brush finch and the forests of the Yarigues mountains could remain unstudied, undescribed and unprotected for so long."

Two birds were caught by the team, one of which was used to provide a DNA sample and photographs before being released unharmed. This is the first time a live specimen has been used for a description of a new bird species.

Ms Huertas said more discoveries would be made public later. "This is just the first of several new species that we will be describing from the Yarigues mountains," she said.

The find was announced by Conservation International which helped to fund the expedition.

## Flypaper Perils

**Terry and Harley**, from the *conure-lovers list*, September 16, 2006, Reprinted with permission.

Flypaper—I had it hanging in my kitchen, tucked away in the corner—to capture those stupid gnats.

I kept meaning to take it down, and Sunday I was going to do it (been there two months and wasn't getting the flying critters), but alas, I got distracted and forgot.

Late Monday night I disregarded one of my house rules—no Harley in the kitchen. [When Harley is out of cage, he is on my shoulder because he is handicapped and can't play on a play stand].

Since I was loading the dishwasher and didn't want him to fall in, I placed him on the

countertop. He spooks so easily, and off he went from my shoulder. Harley always goes straight up, and then he veered to the left. Then he veered to the right before I could catch him, and his wing tip caught the flypaper!

In a horrible second, the flypaper instantly tangled him up. The more he struggled, the worse it got. I screamed - my daughter froze - Simon (CAG) took off from her playpen - the cats went running - the dog just stood there - and time stopped.

Fortunately, in the face of crisis, I keep a level head! I started barking orders like a doctor - "Rachel, get Simon." - Jacob (her boyfriend, who I am glad for once, was there) "get a blue towel." (Harley is used to being wrapped in a blue towel.)

I tried to hold Harley down to prevent him from struggling but that was a lost cause. I got him toweled to hold his head and he got very still. I just knew his wings were broken - he looked horrible, all twisted up in the flypaper. I suspect he was in shock and pain. Then I barked orders again - "salad oil" - "peanut butter" - "scissors".

We should've had a camera rolling! I poured oil on Harley, and the flypaper came off easily. It helped that the flypaper was a couple of months old and not so sticky, and the fact that Harley's feathers were covering up the sticky paper! We had Harley free of the flypaper in a few minutes and I set him on the kitchen counter.

I mixed a bit of peanut butter with the oil and smeared it on him to help with the sticky flypaper glue. (I knew he would be preening himself the next day, and the peanut butter would offset the oil.)

I wrapped him up again and held him for a while. Then we went to take a shower. He was still upset and panicked a bit in the tub. As he

spread his wings out, I could see nothing broken or drooping - whew! He lost a lot of feathers on his back, wings, one leg is nekked and his tail feathers are pretty beat up. I warmed up several towels in the dryer and kept him wrapped for a while. About an hour later, he settled down and was making his Harley noises and chewing my glasses. By midnight, I put him to bed and didn't hear a peep out of him. (I checked the flypaper and there were a LOT of feathers!)

Next morning, he seemed like his old self, a bit subdued but okay. Eating, pooping, and making noise! I had my daughter keep an eye on him during the day. I stopped on the way home from work and bought some Dawn dish soap for his spa retreat evening. I mixed it up half and half in a spray bottle, and then I soaked him with suds—it was a birdie car wash. I rinsed him several times, and he wasn't sticky any more. Once he was dry, he looked pretty good for having a fight with flypaper. Well, except the nekked leg, LOL.

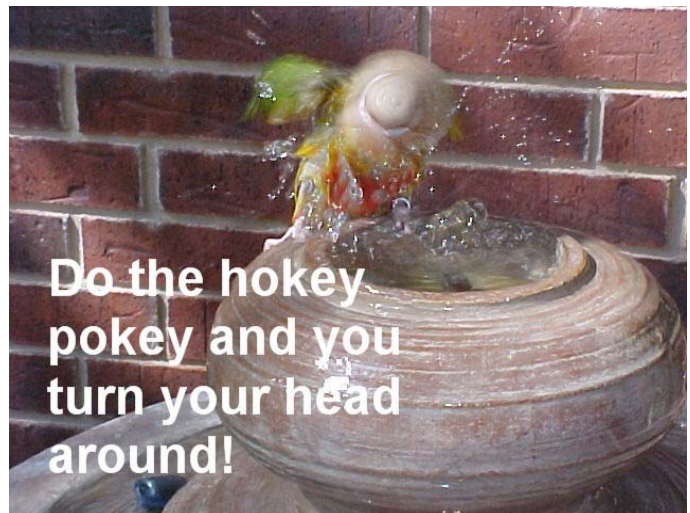
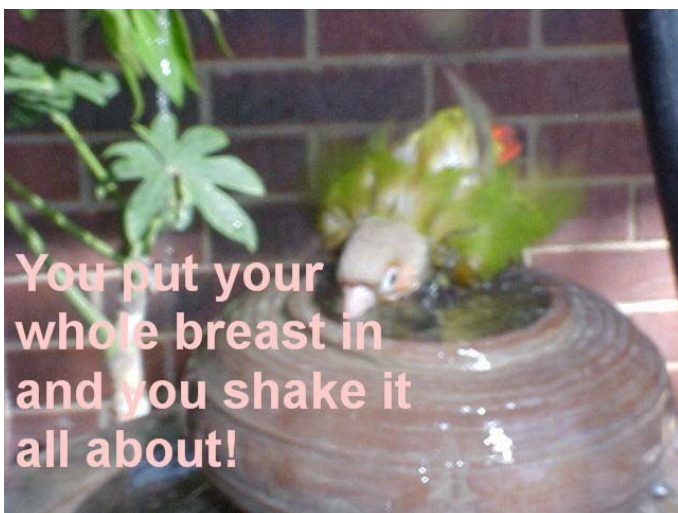
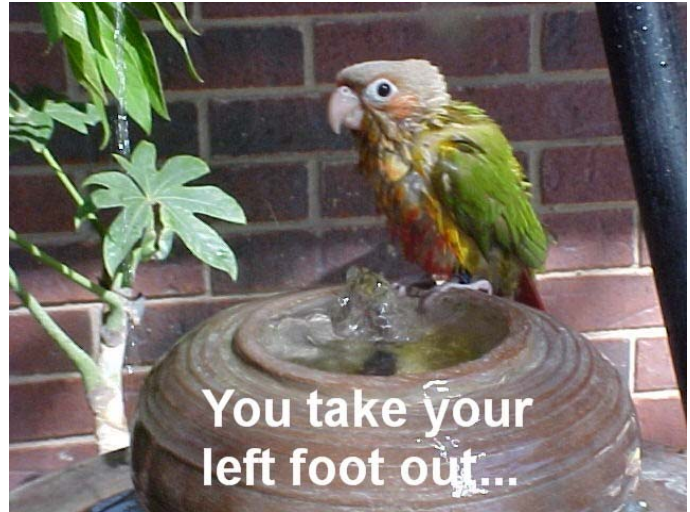
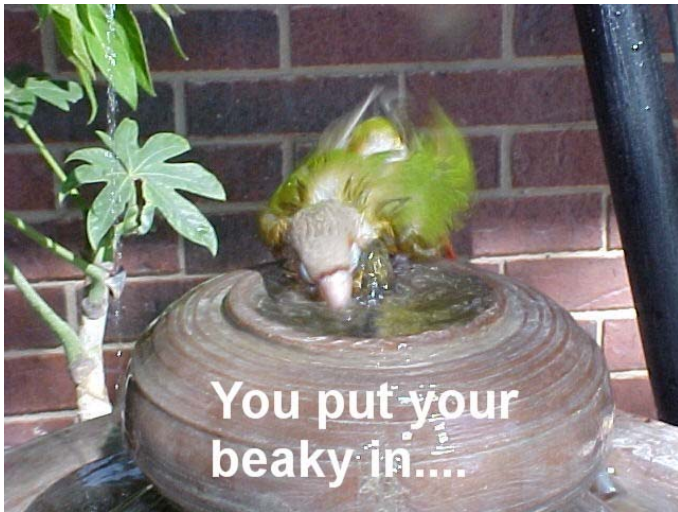
So... I've been beating myself up all week and am just now able to talk about this. Mostly it's knowing how bad it could've been. The flypaper didn't wrap up around his head!! I wasn't all by myself—I have no idea what I would've done if the kids hadn't been here to help. Harley could've broken wings or feet, or just gone into shock and died.

Thank goodness this didn't happen to Simon (CAG)! OMG, she would not have been able to handle it. Then when it was over, she would've had her little bag packed and been at the door waiting for a taxi!

I KNOW that nobody [on the list] has flypaper hanging in their house—so this won't happen to any of you!!! Well <hanging my head>, that's my story and I'm sticking with it.

## Py Play

*Sweet Pea Does the Hokey Pokey, by Catherine Lawrence*



## Personhood for Animals?

*Model Brief by GRASP (Great Ape Standing & Personhood),  
<http://www.nabr.org/animallaw/Personhood/index.htm> [See full brief at website.]*

### Introduction

Lawyers within the Animal Rights Movement have begun to lay the groundwork and test new legal theories in a focused and determined effort to grant additional legal protections for animals, including animals involved in research. The leaders of this legal movement advocate enacting new federal, state, and local laws and ordinances as well as establishing new court precedents that have the potential to significantly interfere with animal research. This long-

term, step-by-step strategy includes a multi-front campaign to toughen state animal cruelty laws, replace the term owner with guardian in local and state statutes, increase access to federal courts by eliminating standing requirements, enact statutes or establish new case law to permit higher levels of compensation for non-economic damages, expand tort law, enact laws that allow trusts to be set up for family pets, and eventually establish a form of legal personhood for some species of animals.

# “Animal Rights” in Australia

Mike Owen, [mowen@internode.on.net](mailto:mowen@internode.on.net), <http://www.mooloolabapets.com.au>

Mike is an experienced aviculturist in Queensland, Australia, and has written many articles on birdkeeping on that continent [see <http://www.birdsnways.com/mowen/>]. Following is a brief synopsis of his take on animal rights groups' lack of success in Australia, as well as the country's "utilitarian" viewpoint of animal use.

[Ed. Note—Some of the actions categorized as animal welfare activities, e.g., justification for the ban on cropping/docking discussed on the Queensland site narrative, are considered AR-promoted activities by many in the U.S., as examples of infringement on private property rights, with no justifiable basis in cruelty to the animals.]

The Australian legislation process makes it very difficult to get AR laws in place if they are perceived not to have general public support. Special interest groups such as PETA do very badly in the Australian system. Besides which, we are reputed to have the highest per capita level of pet ownership of any country in the world.

There has been quite a deal of animal welfare laws, or updates to laws, passed in recent years, but these are no more than reasonable attempts to meet genuine welfare and animal cruelty issues. Dog tail docking and ear cropping have been an issue, and all States now ban such practises - not before time in my opinion! See this site for details from my state of Queensland: <http://www2.dpi.qld.gov.au/animalwelfare/13852.html>.

The Voiceless group [see box below] are an articulate bunch, but have no mainstream support. As far as I have heard, their focus is more the farmyard than the home at this stage.

The Australian approach to animals is quite nicely summarized at <http://artslaw.com.au/ArtLaw/Archive/03whenyoulayyourmoneydown.asp>.

From "Voiceless" [Australia's version of the ALDF in the U.S.] [http://lawtalk.voiceless.org.au/law\\_talk/do\\_animals\\_need\\_lawyers.html](http://lawtalk.voiceless.org.au/law_talk/do_animals_need_lawyers.html)

## ***"Do Animals Need Lawyers?"***

*"...bearing in mind that the law denies animals a voice by classifying them as property, we at Voiceless believe that the real question people should be asking is not, "Why should animals have lawyers," but "Why don't they already have them?"*

"Legislation around Australia prohibits cruelty to animals. The legislation varies in each State. A typical definition of an act of cruelty is to ill-treat or unreasonably, unnecessarily or unjustifiably beat, kick, wound, mutilate, abuse, torture or terrify an animal. The emphasis is on preventing animals from suffering 'unnecessary pain.' Except in NSW, it is legal to kill animals without any reason, provided it is relatively painless. In NSW you must have some reason or justification for killing an animal. The statutes generally contain lots of other more specific offences relating to laying baits, docking horse tails, conducting scientific experiments, debarking dogs, making animals work when they are unfit and neglecting to properly care for and feed animals, among other things.

"Australian legislation takes a 'utilitarian' approach to animal protection as opposed to an 'animal rights' view. Utilitarianism is about minimising harm and maximising good. To this end, the rights of individuals may be subordinated to the overall benefit of the community. In animal protection legislation this means that animal life is not seen as having any inherent value and animals have no right to life or good treatment where the benefits of ill-treating them exceed the harm that is caused by the ill-treatment." [MORE at site referenced]

***Per Mike, under discussion now:***

***The Australian federal government is currently proposing to introduce a fairly draconian control system for virtually all exotic species.***

***[More in the next newsletter]***

## Legislative Updates: PAWS and HEART

### Federal PAWS Bill

*sponsored by Santorum/Durbin*

It is possible that support for the AR-backed bill may be waning. It's NOT dead though, and as Genny Wall recently noted, it could be resurrected at any time as a rider on a must-pass bill, so we need to stay alert and ready to act.

Even though Santorum was defeated in the 2006 Senate election, you can bet PAWS will be back next year, especially since the HSUS/DDAL merger will give more lobbying firepower (dollars to buy votes at all levels). HSUS is a formidable animal rights organization dedicated to eliminating animal ownership in a generation.

Po-animal groups are bolstering their organizations and resources and will be better prepared also. Avian organizations working on legislative issues are NAWA, AFA, and ASA. Among other animal-interest organizations are NAIA and PIJAC.

### HEART, Albuquerque, NM

*Passed 2006 by Albuquerque City Council*

This onerous AR-backed ordinance passed the City Council this summer, and a voter referendum failed to get enough signatures to put it on the ballot.

The Rio Grande Kennel Club and eight individual plaintiffs have filed suit against the City of Albuquerque in New Mexico District Court, 2nd Judicial District and say they will appeal if they lose at that level.

An analysis of the HEART ordinance and potential impacts are provided at [http://www.icare-usa.org/heart\\_faq.htm](http://www.icare-usa.org/heart_faq.htm).

An interesting site with lots of discussion on animal-related issues is at [http://colliclubofamerica.org:32143/legislative\\_news\\_view.php](http://colliclubofamerica.org:32143/legislative_news_view.php)

## CA AB 2862 Demise

*AB 2862 has been gutted, and the scenario as it played out does show that animal industry folks working together can inject the voice of reason into AR insanity. There were folks who couldn't see the magnitude of the problems that this bill would have unearthed—the "unintended consequences" from the implementation standpoint, but VERY INTENDED from API's standpoint (and verified by API's web site statements).*

### Portions of Statement from Pet Industry Joint Advisory Committee (PIJAC)

TO: Coalition Members Opposed to Assembly Bill 2862, August 11, 2006

Update on August 10 Committee Hearing— Problematic Bill Provisions Eliminated and Bill Amended to Require Development of Regulations

The Senate Business and Professions Committee held its second hearing on AB 2862 on August 10 and pet store representatives are happy to report that the bill has been stripped of all requirements on pet store operators.

Instead, the bill has been amended to require development of pet store animal care regulations by January 2008 by the State Consumer Affairs Department.

...

Overall, pet store representatives are pleased that the unworkable, inappropriate and extremely burdensome animal-care requirements have been removed from AB 2862. If the measure does pass the Legislature and is signed by the Governor, representatives believe that the regulatory process will allow sufficient time for careful crafting of appropriate animal care requirements. For further information on this update, please e-mail [noab2862@yahoo.com](mailto:noab2862@yahoo.com).

# NAIS: Talent-Emerson Bill Analysis

Henry Lamb, September 14, 2006

## Technical Review

On September 7, Senator James Talent (R-MO) introduced S-3862, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8308), which the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has used as the authority to develop its proposed National Animal Identification System (NAIS). A companion bill (HR-6042) was introduced in the House by Representative Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO).

Section I of the bill says that the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture... "shall not implement or carry out, and no Federal funds shall be used to implement or carry out, a National Animal Identification System, or similar requirement, that mandates the participation of livestock owners."

Section II of the bill defines the term "Animal Identification System" to mean: "voluntary system for identifying or tracing animals that is established by the Secretary."

This section also provides protection from disclosure, under the Freedom of Information Act, "...of information that may be collected by the USDA through a voluntary program." By providing information to USDA in a voluntary program, the provider does not relinquish any other right, privilege, or protection afforded under federal law, including trade secret protection.

...

Any information obtained from the Secretary by state or local government, is not subject to local or state laws that require public disclosure.

## Analysis

This bill is not a National Animal Identification System bill, and should not be considered as such. Three other bills have been introduced, that are NAIS bills: HR-3170, HR-1254, and HR-1256. These are bills that describe a proposed National Animal Identification System. Additionally, the USDA has proposed a NAIS

that can be implemented by rule, using the authority and funding granted in the 2002 appropriation bill.

Senator Talent's bill goes to the seat of this authority and amends the original authority to prohibit any animal identification program developed by USDA from being mandatory. The bill further prohibits the use of federal funds to any state program that is mandatory.

The purpose of this bill is not to describe, or define a NAIS. The other bills serve this purpose, and these bills call for a mandatory system. The Talent bill will now force the Agriculture Committee to reconcile the "no mandatory program" concept with the "mandatory" concept. This head-on battle would not have occurred without the Talent bill.

...

## Commentary

Opponents of the NAIS may prefer that there be no national animal identification program at all. But this preference ignores reality. More than four years, and at least \$183 million have already been invested in developing a program. There are at least three bills defining a NAIS, in addition to the program developed by the USDA. If there is no legislation, the USDA program will be instituted by rule. The basis for this eventuality was established in the agriculture appropriations bill.

...

The Talent bill seeks only to prohibit the USDA from making mandatory any animal identification program that it may develop, and to prohibit the use of federal funds for any state program that is mandatory. It also seeks to protect from disclosure any information that may be collected by a voluntary USDA program.

*Full article at <http://freedom.org/news/200609/14/lamb.phtml>*

*More at <http://nonais.org>.*

# Pros and Cons of Owning a Human (PARROT'S Point of View)

<http://www.landofvos.com/humor/humor2.html>

- 1.** They sleep too late. I mean, honestly, why must they wait for the sun to be ENTIRELY up to get out of bed and feed me?
- 2.** Some learn to talk, but most don't. They have this annoying tendency to repeat the same thing over and over again without any real purpose. I have spent countless hours trying to get mine to learn to scream but to no avail.
- 3.** No matter how many times I fling the kale out of my bowl, my person refuses to get the message and there it is again the next day ruining my breakfast. Why must it be so difficult to get some cheese around here?
- 4.** Humans are all noisy. They yell across the house all the time. Don't get me started on that awful sound they make at night when they are sleeping. Sounds like a buzzsaw.
- 5.** They continuously hang their little colored blocks of wood and string in MY bedroom. Like I don't have enough of my own stuff, I need to operate a storage facility too? I destroy the things, and what do they do? They go ahead and hang more. You'd think they'd get the message. I honestly just don't have the room!
- 6.** Did I mention how hard it is to get a piece of cheese around here??
- 7.** Humans are messy. No bones about it - socks on the floor, jacket on the chair, and when was the last time yours made its bed in the morning.
- 8.** Once a year or so they drag you to this awful place where some complete stranger wraps you in a towel and shines a light in your eye. Watch out for the needle - they're after your blood, God only knows what for! You're like, "Uh, a little HELP here??", but your human stands there stupidly and does NOTHING until the strangers have decided they have had enough of you. If you're lucky you'll get to go

home then. Be sure and bite your human at least once for this indignation to teach them a lesson and maybe they won't take you there again next year.

**9.** Humans hardly ever keep to a schedule. I like to think I have mine trained to get home at 6:30pm, but then every so often she surprises me by not showing up until 9pm! The nerve. Also, what is it about Sundays and my not getting breakfast on time because humans like to sleep in?

**10.** They let strange people in the house without asking my permission.

**11.** Humans sometimes carry pests like cats and dogs. I have not yet figured out how to rid them of this problem.

**12.** If you want to keep more than one human, just be prepared that they don't always get along. Other times they get along too well and completely ignore you - a few loud bursts of screaming should solve either issue quickly.

**13.** Sometimes they place a cover over your bedroom WELL before you have any interest in going to bed.

**14.** They, not being the brightest creatures, tend to sit in one place for HOURS staring at a box with pictures in it that makes a lot of noise. Either that or they sit in front of a DIFFERENT type of box and tap their fingers on the tabletop in front of IT for hours. Doesn't take much to keep them occupied. Use this time wisely and get into and destroy anything you normally wouldn't be allowed to if they were paying attention!

**15.** Lastly, in spite of all their unpleasant habits, they are GREAT cuddlers, they skritch that spot you can never quite reach, and they do offer fabulous room service (when it includes cheese), house cleaning, and spa services.

# PBA: Preserving Birds through Aviculture

## PBA Mission Statement

1. To bring together people interested in the keeping and breeding of Pyrrhura Conures.
2. To enhance those interests, through mutual education.
3. To provide a background in keeping of all the species and sub-species.
4. To encourage the domestic breeding of all species and sub-species.
5. To provide a networking studbook on the uncommon and rarer species.

## In addition, according to PBA Bylaws, the organization's purpose is to

- ✓ create a cooperative spirit and feeling among the various bird owners and breeders and to enhance our common bond;
- ✓ educate the public, pet owners, and breeders in good avicultural practices;
- ✓ promote better caged bird care and husbandry;
- ✓ promote the conservation and preservation of Pyrrhura Conures through captive breeding of common, uncommon, rare, or endangered species and sub-species;
- ✓ assist each member in solving of any problems that may arise in the pursuit of aviculture; and
- ✓ keep the members informed of local, state, and national legislation which impacts aviculture.



## PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

c/o Kelli Eager, Secretary  
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Burleson, TX 76028

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**