

The Py Press

Spring 2005

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**PYRRHURA BREEDERS
ASSOCIATION**

President's Message

This spring has been busy as usual for most aviculturists—lots of babies. Weather challenges have continued this spring with mudslides in California, as well as continuing legislative attempts to limit animal breeding from animal rights groups.

Your officers are excited about new opportunities for educating members, new companion bird owners, and interested individuals and groups about the species of pyrrhura conures that are in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. I have started with an article I wrote on flocking Pyrrhuras in the home, and I hope others will contribute with their experiences in breeding and home maintenance of these wonderful, adaptable parrots. Future articles (which will also be included on our web site) will include other species, such as crimson-bellied, fiery-shouldered, roseifrons, white-eared, etc.—both breeder and pet stories, which will give insights into the personality of the pyrrhura so

that we, as breeders, can better assist those who buy from us, both for breeding and for companion birds. I look forward to input from PBA members all over the world!

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 the mission of the organization, both educating about and promoting the feathered jewels that are the Pyrrhura conures.

President	Marcy Covault	President@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Vice President	Andrew Pike	Vicepresident@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
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Secretary	Kelli Eager	Secretary@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com
Webmaster/Editor	Judi Robben	Editor@pyrrhurabreedersassociation.com

Treasurer's Report

Bee Gee Bunch

INCOME

Membership received through 3/31/05 \$150.00

EXPENSES

Dues and subscriptions

Web site hosting 49.95

AFA 125.00

Newsletter 1/30/05

Printing (Tim Robertson) 227.06

Postage and Mailing (Elke Davis) 70.89

TOTAL EXPENSES

(\$482.90)

Balance as of 3/31/05

\$4,293.24

Membership Report

Kelli Eager

We have 57 members and are growing. We handed out several applications for membership at the Fort Worth Bird Mart. Our membership spans the United States, Canada, Australia, and several countries in Europe. We encourage each member to send along an application for membership with each bird sale.

We are working very hard 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 support. We want the PBA to be as non-political as possible, with its primary function as service to its members.

AFA in Brief, June 2005

Carol Brasaemle, Editor

Election!

Very soon members of the House of Delegates (HOD) will receive their ballots for this year's election. Who are members of the HOD? The house is comprised of the Board of Directors, Club Delegates, State Coordinators, Committee Chairs, persons serving AFA in a Board Status, appointed officials, and special advisers designated as members of the House

of Delegates. These people represent all of us during elections.

If you have a vote, please use it in a timely manner. Instructions for proper voting are included with your ballot. Please read carefully before casting your vote so that it will be included in the count. HOD members must hold a current membership for their votes to be valid.

This year's nominees are as follows (* indicates incumbent):

President: Benny Gallaway, PhD*,
Jerry Jennings, JD

Second Vice President: Brenda Piper*,
Genny Wall, JD

Northeastern Regional Director:
Linda Rubin

Southeastern Regional Director:
Nancy Speed*

**Florida and Puerto Rico Regional
Director:** Fred Smith*

North Central Regional Director: OPEN

Western Regional Director:
Lisa McManus*

Northern California Regional Director:
Barry Wold*, John Del Rio

Members, this is your opportunity to contribute your voice to the direction of AFA and its many important contributions to the avicultural community. Please give careful consideration to this election of your Avicultural Representatives.

Convention Speakers Added

Please don't forget to register for this year's convention, "The Diversity of Aviculture," August 3 - 6, 2005, Miami, Florida. The following have been added to the speaker schedule.

* Simon Jensen will be speaking on "Breeding Birds of Paradise at the Al Wabra Wildlife Preservation, Qatar."

* Jon-Mark Davey, sponsored by the Quaker Parakeet Society, will be speaking on "Parrots in the City - A Day in the Life of a Quaker Parrot."

* Dianalee Deter will also be speaking on "Keeping African Greys."

For up to date information, biographies of the speakers, and the text of their abstracts, go

to www.AFAbirds.org and go to the 2005 Convention tab.

Raffles, Auctions, and Special Convention Items

Don't forget to buy (and sell!) the Super Drawing Raffle tickets. The top ten ticket sellers will receive a prize and the top seller will receive a free registration to the 2006 AFA convention. Tickets and prize information are also on the web site under the 2005 convention tab.

As we did last year, we will request that attendees fill out a convention survey. All survey participants will be eligible for a raffle for an iPod Shuffle. Speaking of raffles, our daily raffles are going to surpass last year's great selection of items. We will have our Silent Auction as well as some surprise three-day raffles for attendees.

What's Happening with West Nile Virus?

It's early in the season, but there is beginning to be some mosquito action, diagnosed in wild birds in CA and LA. Positive samples in mammals and mosquitoes have been found primarily in NV and AZ. A number of samples have been sent in for examination in the Southeast and in PA. So far no human illness. We do know that public health people are gearing up in case it's a rough summer.

West Nile can be predicted to occur cyclically. Although many remaining birds have some immunity, that does not appear to be vertically transmitted to offspring. Indoor cage birds have the least risk. If you take them outdoors during the day do so in midday when mosquitoes are least active. Check your yard for anyplace water can stand and provide breeding grounds for larvae.

Aviary birds require a bit more work. Screen them in if feasible. Be sure water drainage after cage cleaning doesn't puddle. Get rid of standing water. Tablets are available for ponds and stock tanks which make the environment inhospitable for larvae survival but do not harm mammals. Ask about use around birds. Use anything you can locate to eliminate mosquitoes without harming your birds. Read labels carefully. Have a safe mosquito season!!

AFA Announces New Web Classifieds Now Available

Based upon reports generated by Howard Hammack, our AFA webmaster, the most frequently visited web page on the AFA web site (after the home page) is the classified advertising page. Despite the fact that the page was only updated with *Watchbird* classifieds every three months, people are going to this site regularly and frequently.

For this reason, we believe that there is a demand for the classified advertising to be more dynamic. In addition, we see this as an

opportunity to create another AFA member benefit that we currently do not offer.

The new Web Classifieds would give every AFA member in good standing the ability to post classified ads on the AFA website, via an on-line form that is filled out, that will run for one full month. The person's membership would be validated prior to the ad being posted. There would not be a limit to the number of ads posted per member (many people have a large variety of birds that they wish to advertise), but we will respectfully request that members do not repost the same ad more than once per month, and this will be loosely monitored. The ads will automatically be deleted once they have run for 30 days.

The classified ads that appear in the *Watchbird* will be included automatically in the Web Classifieds each month for the three month duration that they will be in the *Watchbird*. This way, there is no loss of value to the *Watchbird* classified advertiser, and they actually may get more traffic because of the increased number of classifieds and their freshness.

PBA at the AFA Convention

PBA Delegates

The PBA delegates for this year are Bee Gee Bunch and Pat Chinnici. Pursuant to a poll of the membership, the PBA Officers voted to pay 2 nights stay (at convention rates) and \$50 expenses for each, so that they can participate in the delegate sessions.

PBA Advertising

Following input from the membership poll, the PBA has opted for the break "package" for advertising. A tote stuffer and half-page ad

need to be developed, submitted to AFA. Then the stuffer needs to be printed and delivered for inclusion. There is a deadline. *We need a volunteer to handle this!*

Raffle Items

Mona Tuomi has agreed to carry donated items to the AFA Convention for those not attending. She will coordinate with Bee Gee and Pat so that the items will be properly credited to PBA with AFA. Please contact her at mtuomi@tampabay.rr.com to arrange sending raffle items to her.

Flocking Pyrrhura Conures in the Home

By Marcy Covault, Feathered Companions Aviary, Austin, TX, ©2005, all rights reserved.

Flocking pyrrhura conures in our homes—hmmm. What a concept. Having feathered gems flying all over the living area in the evenings—colorful, social butterfly-birds that don't know how small they are—is my idea of a “homey” environment!

Am I crazy, or what? Flying poopers? Voracious termites? Head buzzers? Hair snarlers? Human enslavers? All of these terms have crossed my mind and are generally applicable and endearing terms, kind of like calling kids “rug rats.”

Why a Flock? Is it Critical for Conure Mental Health?

Most parrots, and certainly pyrrhura conures, affectionately known as “pys,” are by nature flocking creatures. Whether their flock is human, other birds, or both is a decision best made based on the bird's personality, the home environment, and the needs and abilities to serve of their human caretakers.

Human/conure flocking—A solitary py that has an enriched home environment and attentive human flock members can be quite content most of the time. Birds are wonderfully adaptable and accept humans as flock members, even though we look like monster mostly-water octopus-beings—it's amazing how unprejudiced as to looks birds are.

Feathered buddies—Would your py be happier with another feathered buddy? That

depends on the buddy and how “joined at the hip” your conure is to you. Pys tend to accept new conure flock-mates with little protest, so long as you don't just put a stranger in their home-sweet-home cage right off the bat. Introducing them in neutral territory is wise and considerate. If you're thinking about a



species that is not a conure, or not the same size as a py, you need to be doubly careful. Differences in species sizes and temperaments are significant in some cases.

Non-bird animal—

Would another animal in the room be enough? That depends on how your py friend views

other animals. If it's a natural predator, e.g., dog or cat, the py may be stressed a good bit of the time if you're gone and there's a fair amount of staring while licking chops going on. Would the py be intrigued enough to watch aquarium life swimming around? Probably not for long. Would it like to look out the window during the day and see other animals? Maybe, if the activities are varied and far enough away not to appear threatening to a caged bird. Probably not if it's a hawk, or a cat hanging onto the screen trying to get in.

What are the Dynamics of a Multiple Pyrrhura Conure Flock?

Observation and interaction of the py flock in the home reveal some interesting dynamics

which help in understanding why pys behave as they do. This should help a human of average intelligence be able to communicate and interact better with their pys.

Mutual allopreening for comfort and cuddling—Conures in general are frequently in bodily contact with each other, whether it's just sitting close on a perch during naptime, beak-vying for a choice morsel, snuggling to sleep at night, or actively preening each other's feathers. Birds are by nature clean freaks when it comes to their own bodies. Obviously they don't care about decorating the cage bottoms with debris and poop, but personally, they groom themselves and each other meticulously. Ever notice how focused one of them can get on removing a mole on your neck or arm? They are grooming you, as they would with any other flock member.

"Gang" territories—Py gangs, affectionately referred to as "Mongol hordes," seems to be hard-wired when it comes to territorial displays and "claiming" flock areas. Either in groups or individually, they will vie for preferred play areas—and heaven help the py who lands on someone else's cage while the cage-dweller is locked inside! Cage-shark activity, including chomping toes, will soon let the interloper know to "move on."

Certain groups of pys will be tolerant of each other and move around in twos and threes. In some areas, others will be allowed, so long as they move aside on preferred playgrounds. Newcomers to py-land, however, are usually subjected to posturing and chattering, as the



established gang attempts to intimidate and drive out the interlopers.

Getting into trouble together—Don't be under the illusion that because they have toys to play with when they are out, pys will not get into your "stuff." Wooden picture and door frames are not excluded, nor is wallpaper behind the picture frames! Py-

proofing includes having no glasses of liquid, no sinks of sudsy water, no toxic houseplants, and no electrical cords within py-reach. Supervision is like with small children—constantly necessary.

Putting themselves to bed at night—Pys are creatures of routine. If lights are on dimmers and gradually lower, and the py knows where their cage is,

they will usually go to that cage—unless they prefer someone else's cage! In counting noses, one can sometimes find the youngsters all piled into one sleeping box or tent (if it's big enough), even lying on top of on another in a mass of feathered bodies.

Foraging and feeding stations—There have been many studies, particularly in recent years, about the importance of foraging to parrots. Pys dearly love to find treats in strange places. Little bowls and cups here and there around the room keep them moving and hunting. Because they are high energy, pys will snack a good part of the day, in their cages or out on their playscapes.

Toys and play areas—Pys like hanging, swinging, jingling, tinkling, rolling toys—so anything that is size appropriate might

become their favorite within the territorial playground. Having hanging items dispersed around the area will encourage them to fly around, checking out various playscapes, much like children at a public playground. If one py is obviously enjoying a toy, others may decide to check it out too, and then the game of “top py” may begin.

Pys adore foot toys, like little whiffle balls with plastic beads in them, and other foot-sized, lightweight toys. They will grab a ball and throw it, or push it across a cage bottom, chasing it with playful concentration. Plastic chain provides a wonderful “jungle rope” for pys. They will grab midway down with both feet and flap themselves into a spinning circle. Hanging, colorful, multi-shaped toy clusters become chewing or battling focuses for py imagination.

Bathing—Even though they have bowls in their flights for bathing, running water in the kitchen sink brings them flying. A shallow dish placed under a low-spray shower will attract the group, who will then vie for “first shower” rights, which may include wild flailing in the water, splattering everywhere, and drenching to the skin so that they have to really flap hard to fly very far.

Games Pys Play

Alarm calls – flock circling—A game that pys play, I think as practice for “the real danger,” is precipitated by a py “bark” of alarm, and all flock members take to the air and circle a few times with whistling cries. Some even fly into other rooms, from which their human is supposed to rescue them, if

their distraction with the alarm exercise makes them unaware of the route home. When adult py flock members do this and there are youngsters newly into the flock, the human has to watch out for the babies because they may not understand the “mock danger” nature of the exercise, and may truly be alarmed and fly into things (walls, mirrors, cage bars). Reassurance is sometimes called for here. They will learn—part of the nature of the flock is teaching every member the rules and how to interact socially and appropriately.



“Top py”—When new pys are allowed out with established “gangs,” the bluffing game is on. Along with puffing up and posturing like adders, menacing chattering, beak strikes, and body slams are utilized. Spiraling to the floor, feet locked, chattering threateningly are also maneuverings to determine

who bests who. Age of the py isn’t necessarily a gauge of “top py”—that can vary depending on whether one male, for example, has decided a female is “his” in the flock, and another dares to approach her. Then it becomes who can bluff who!

Digit chewing—Fingers and hands, because they are the first physical contact by humans with baby pys, can become fascinating game pieces. Ever had a py dangle from your finger by its beak? Or grab a finger, chomp, and refuse to let go, like a little bulldog? When it’s in play, it may hurt some, but it rarely is bloody, unless the tip of the beak catches a cuticle—then ouch! Unlike some of the larger parrots, even a “serious” py will not maim or

mutilate—you might lose a few drops of blood, but people can spare a few drops!

Mobbing the mobile human flock member—Py flocks explore their territory, including the mobile human flock member (MHFM) that is conveniently large and mobile, making for an interesting playscape for them.

When one py visits the MHFM and is engrossed in interacting, other pys spy something interesting going on, and they certainly don't want to be left out of the activities. They will vie for a spot on either shoulder, on the head, in the shirt, on an arm, or even on the body if they are not "top py" in the flock (that is, if another py is better at bluffing them out for top spot on the MHFM). Particularly, if the MHFM is moving around in the kitchen, such things as bathing under the faucet or getting a tidbit of food are of interest to the roving pys. If the MHFM becomes stationary (that is, sits in a chair to read or watch TV), the flock may get bored and move on, or they may mill around to stir up activity. That's when chewing on clothes, glasses, hair, reading materials, toes, and neck moles become common activities.

Buzzing—Pys LOVE to buzz your head, or grab hair as they go by and then flap/squawk onto your head. They also like to burrow under hair at the nape of the neck, exploring little imperfections on the skin (like moles)—"grooming" their human—ouch!

To Fly or Not to Fly—the Easy Answer?

Do pyrrhura conures need their flight feathers trimmed? That depends. If the home

environment is secure, and there are no uncovered windows or plate-glass doors or mirrors, no frequent indoor/outdoor trips, and plenty of time to put them up if they willfully refuse to go back to their cages when we are in a hurry and need to leave—then don't clip. Leave them natural and free-flying in the home, so long as they are supervised, so that



they don't get into trouble in our bird-hazardous homes.

If you decide to trim wing-feathers, please educate yourself as to be best way to do this. For example, be aware that trimming feathers on only one wing (which used to be quite

common) will cause your bird to spiral out of control to the floor, or into objects near floor-level—not dignified and rather sad, in my opinion. If you are vain about the beauty of your birds longest flight feathers and opt for a "show clip" (usually leaving the longest two flight feathers intact, but clipping the rest), be aware that a bird can land on those flight feathers, and with no supporting backup feathers, can break them. If they are "blood feathers" (recently grown in and still with a blood supply at the shaft where they grow from the wing), you may have a blood-spattered mess, and your bird might lose enough blood to put it into shock.

Predators—If there are predator-type animals in the home (dogs, cats, ferrets, etc.), one needs to be careful about clipping, as the py may not be able to easily escape an attack, or may be the recipient of retaliatory actions on the part of a predator which the bird first attacks! On the other hand, pys are

notorious for not realizing how small they are, and they will tackle a creature many times their size and weight. Even a good-natured furry pet may object to ear-bites and retaliate with a crippling or fatal blow or bite.

Children—If there are a herd of children running in and out of the house all the time, it's a two-edged sword situation. A flighted bird can fly out the door in a second. An unflighted bird on the floor can be stepped on in a second.

Potty-training—If your py pooping at random places in the house bothers you, then controlling its area of influence may be important to you. However, that same bird may be more difficult to potty-train and require your attentiveness to frequent intervals of relief-offering; whereas if it can fly, it can go to a favorite spot to relieve itself, and then return to you.



Independence and Pet Quality

Pys that have been allowed full flight and flocking can be pretty full of themselves. They know they are birds, and they know that they can fly away (usually up high) if they want to avoid someone or going back into their cages. So how does this relate to differences between flocked (and flighted) pys versus unflocked (single, clipped) pys insofar as their quality as pets? It often means that their human caretakers must educate themselves on behavior dynamics and how to encourage pys to do what is asked. These pys are more independent and not as apt to behave as clingy "bird kittens" as those that have not fledged and have been kept more isolated

(and not experienced the flocking environment). They may take a bit longer to adapt to a new home, but when they do, they are self-confident and full of personality, and usually very affectionate. I feel that in the long run, they are usually more satisfactory pets for most people (who do not expect a clingy, dependent bird to stroke their ego).

If you value your py's self-determination on whether, where, and when to fly in their home territory, then their ability to fly will promote that. On the other hand, if you want more control on their whereabouts, you may want to consider a modified feather-trimming. I believe that in most cases, totally limiting the bird with a trim of all flight feathers is about control: mess, destruction, supervision—all issues which require your time and

energy, but may not best serve the bird's interests. How much do you need to curb the joyful flitting back and forth between play/feed stations and your shoulder or head?

How quickly do you need to put your conure back in its cage? If your py is full-flighted and decides it's not ready to go back, what are behavioral or environmental alternatives to wing-trimming? Outsmarting the bird rather than chasing it down and grabbing it (encouraging a game or causing predator-fear—remember you are hundreds of times larger) will help you keep your py's trust and foster a good relationship much better.

Training and environmental set-up tips include:

- Ø Training the bird to "come" (similar to that done with free-flying birds);

- ∅ Setting a routine and including positive reinforcement (a treat and/or extra cuddles with praise, for going into its cage); and
- ∅ Controlling the environment (limiting the size of the room or gradually dimming lights in the evening as a signal to bed-time).

I recommend the book, *Good Bird!* by Barbara Heidenreich, for positive training techniques towards developing a good companionship with your py.

What about the “Living Arrangements?”

Same-sex buddies – play and sex—Who says you have to have a girl and boy bird for them to have “fun?” Not only do pys play together, but they will practice mating behaviors, even if the same sex—or even if different species—very different. And who hasn’t had a mature py whispering sweet nothings in one’s ear while rubbing its vent area on one’s neck?



Male and female “buddies” – environmental reproductive stimuli—If you have a male and female, is it automatic that they will have babies? Not necessarily, but they sure will be trying at times. Pys are cavity nesters and they like sleeping quarters, so what do you do? Locating sleep boxes or tents so that they are light inside during the day will help discourage nesting activity.

Limiting the amount of (full spectrum) lighting should also help—longer days with longer hours of light mean its reproduction time. Providing a good maintenance diet, but not a rich breeding diet, will also help in not stimulating nesting activity.

Sometimes, despite the best efforts at not providing a suitable nesting area, the female will lay eggs—off the perch, in a corner, wherever seems to her mind the best option available. In that case, it’s best not to remove egg after egg, since it may trigger more laying, which can be damaging to her health if it continues on and on. You can talk with your vet—there are shots to stop laying. You can also let the female complete the cycle—let her

sit on the clutch (in the bottom in a box) for 3 weeks. She will usually abandon the eggs at some point, and you can then remove them.

How many is a crowd?—This depends on time of year and personality of birds. I try to keep even numbers together, but if they are raised together, there’s not usually an odd-man-out—except perhaps during breeding season. Even

then, I’ve seen trios in a sleepbox. You really have to know your birds to allow this though, because when hormones flare, the odd-man may indeed be “out.”

Sleeping arrangements—You decide where your py will sleep. Regardless of preference, however, do NOT let your py sleep with you! The size differential and probability for crushing/suffocating the tiny py are too great to take a chance. Few people can claim to be as sensitive as the princess to the pea!

I prefer at least two to a cage, and with a larger flight, four to a cage will give them their own “mini-flock” and provide you with amusement watching them snuggle, preen,

jockey for position, and generally do what pyses do in a flock microcosm.

Should they be caged at all?—There is a school of thought that says pyses, or most parrots for that matter, should not be caged at all, or rarely. In my view, in the artificial environment of our homes, household hazards are just too dangerous, unless one can supervise them at all times—kind of like being a private nanny all day long to a flock of py kids. Most humans can't do that—they do have lives outside the py world! So we do the best we can, with cages as large as we can have them, lots of toys and other play-stimuli, and quality out-of-cage time for socialization and exercise. Our py are adaptable—they will fit into our households and our hearts if we will accommodate their "birdness" in our lives.



Reference Materials

Please note that I do not necessarily agree 100% with everything in these articles, but if one reads them and applies common sense to their own flock situation, many good insights can be assimilated and applied.

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Aviculture in the U.S. – Animal Welfare vs. Animal Rights

Marcy Covault

Those who are on several Yahoo group lists have undoubtedly read some of the alerts and calls-to-action regarding potential legislation that could negatively affect animal breeding, including aviculture. Some of this potential “regulation” looks relatively harmless (to aviculturists) on first read, or, we may think to ourselves (because it concerns dogs, cats, etc.) that it doesn’t apply to us.

NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH! It is a short jump from other animals to exotic birds—all involve animal breeding. It’s not “their” problem—it’s ALL of our problem—ALL animal breeders need to pay attention and, as necessary, to support efforts to defeat the majority of new legislation that further regulates animal breeding, particularly on the federal level, and specifically on the state level where there is infringement on constitutional rights.

I attended an animal law conference in Austin last year, and what was imparted there chilled me to the bone—it confirmed what I had been reading elsewhere. The “animal rights” movement is alive and well, has a war chest of millions of dollars (through several prominent organizations such as HSUS, PETA, DDAL, etc.), and is working toward “incremental” legislation to limit and/or eliminate breeding, which therefore would eventually eliminate pets (and other animal uses). There are also specific organizations that are targeting aviculture, such as the Avian Welfare Coalition.

What’s also happening where seemingly “good” legislation is passed, is that there are loopholes or vague definitions, which open

the door to abusive interpretations of law which negatively affect animal breeders in the name of “animal welfare.” The John Stossel 20/20 exposé on some SPCA activities illustrated just how those who would control others are using the law to trample on constitutional rights.

Are there unconstitutional laws passed? You bet. Can they be fought? Sure—but be prepared to spend thousands of dollars. And unless something is passed on a federal level (and it may even need to be tested in a federal court), every time one of these laws is passed on a local or state level, it would need to be fought. Most people can’t or won’t do that—so the laws stay on the books and are used to “get” people.

The backlash against the “animal rights movement” mentality is growing, but it’s behind in sophistication and in sheer volume, e.g., the number of web sites that spew ARA propaganda vs. the number that expose ARA misrepresentations and their true agenda.

If you raise any kind of animal, you need to get to know what the laws are in your city, county, and state. Keep up with what’s being presented for regulating animals and animal breeding by joining organizations that will keep you informed on a national, state, and local level. There are a number of state pet-law Yahoo group lists, and there is a national pet-law Yahoo group list. Organizations such as AFA and NAIA also keep tabs on the latest “test” of law is coming down the pike.

It’s like the old saying, “If you don’t vote, you don’t have a right to complain.” Make your voice heard!

The following is a wonderful allegory for all who feel the Animal Rights movement or the new PAWS law won't affect them!

From Beth A. Alden, ASCA Senior Breeder Judge, Almostheaven Farm, Australian Shepherds, Since 1969, Home: Arizona.

*A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. "What food might this contain?" He discovered it was a mousetrap!

Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The mouse turned to the pig and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house."

The pig sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers."

The mouse turned to the cow. She said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose."

So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone.

That very night a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey.

The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.

The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever.

Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet

to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

But his wife's sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.

So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember -- when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk.

In the book of Genesis, Cain said this about Abel, his brother: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to encourage one another.

EACH OF US IS A VITAL THREAD IN ANOTHER PERSON'S TAPESTRY; OUR LIVES ARE WOVEN TOGETHER FOR A REASON.

The following sites have more information on animal rights vs. animal welfare—from each perspective! Each has many more links to other sites.

Animal "welfare" philosophy:

<http://www.naiaonline.org/>

<http://www.responsiblepetowners.org/>

<http://www.afabirds.org/>

<http://www.parrotfestival.org/mission.html>

<http://www.animalscam.com/>

Animal "rights" philosophy:

<http://www.api4animals.org/569.htm>

<http://www.avianwelfare.org/welcome.htm>

<http://www.theangryparrot.org/>

<http://www.maars.org/aboutus/index.php>

<http://www.aavar.org/>

Aviculture at the Mercy of Mother Nature

Over the past year, we have been reminded of the power of Mother Nature to affect our lives and the animals under our care.

Hurricane Frances: Sep 2004



Executive Director Paul Reillo of the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation shows one of three flight cages crushed by Hurricane Frances. The birds spent the storm in steel bunkers.

California Mud Slide: Feb 2005

<http://www.oceanside-orchids-parrots.com/conures/index.htm>



Oceanside resident Linda Blessing, walks across a make-shift bridge from one part of her property to another separated by a 15 foot crevice made by a landslide which destroyed her conure house.

PBA Member Ads

Rockport Roost, Deryl and Elke Davis, deryl44@sbcglobal.net

Young female crimson-bellied conure, \$800. Can be paired with Marcy Covault's male and sold and shipped as a pair for \$1,350.

Beautiful pairs of Pineapple mutation Green Cheek Conures. Ages between 3 and 4 months. Very vibrant colors. \$1,100 per pair. Pictures at <http://www.rockportroost.com/Pineapplepairs.html>. Also available, 3 pineapple females, \$450 each (all 3 for \$1,150).

We give discounts on multiple bird purchases!

Feathered Companions Aviary, Marcy Covault, birdcompanions@juno.com

2005 pair crimson-bellied, \$1,350.

Two almost-weaned crimson-bellied males, tame, \$550 each (Both, \$1,000).

2005 pair pineapples, \$1,100.

YS/poss.cinn. M, \$250; unrelated normal F, \$150

Almost weaned: 2 pineapple M, \$750 each; 2 cinn./YS M, \$275 each.

White-eared conures (*griseipectus*), \$250 (DNA-sexed) when weaned (mid to late July).

Tim Robertson, The Hatching Post Aviary, PO Box 752, Dumas, TX 79029,
(806) 681-6894, Tim@HatchingPost.com or tlnnp67@aol.com
Accept Visa, MC, Discover, Paypal.

Female cinnamon green-cheeked conure (no longer tame), \$250

Turquoise green-cheeked conure male (possibly split to pineapple), \$800

Cinnamon split turquoise green-cheeked conure female, \$500

Yellowsided split turquoise green-cheeked conure female, \$500

Normal split turquoise green-cheeked conure female, \$400

Normal split turquoise green-cheeked conure male (probably split to pineapple as well), \$400

Clutch of turquoises unrelated to the above birds, not sexed yet but should be able to make unrelated pairs.

Crimson-bellied conures (not sexed yet), \$800

4 parent-raised rose-fronted conures (*Pyrrhura picta roseifrons*), 2 females and 2 males. Would like to trade two of them for unrelated stock for another unrelated pair. The other two are \$600 each. 4 hand-fed male roseifrons, could be pets or breeders, \$600 each.

4 parent-raised male fiery-shouldered conures (*Pyrrhura e. egregia*). Would like to trade two of them for unrelated stock for another unrelated pair. The other two are \$400 each.

Weaned to a healthy diet of sprouts, fresh vegetables and fruit, soak-and-cook, pellets, and a little seed. Closed-banded. Ship via Continental QuickPak. Written health guarantee included.

Those Photogenic Pys

Maia and Charlie—
Julie Hunt



Pineapple Pair—
Rockport Roost



Play-Hanging—
Pineapple at FCA



PBA: Preserving Birds through Aviculture

The Pyrrhura Breeders Association is an AFA-affiliated specialty organization.

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

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

***NOTE: A FULL COLOR VERSION OF THE PY PRESS
WILL BE POSTED ON THE PBA WEB SITE WITHIN THE MONTH!***



PYRRHURA BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

**c/o Kelli Eager, Secretary
604 Fairway View Dr.
Burleson, TX 76028**

FIRST CLASS MAIL