

OCTOBER
2008

MACAW
Madison Area Cagebird Association of Wisconsin
Helping birds since 1983



Presidents Perch
Steve Fitzsimmons

Welcome to the
October issue of
the MACAW

Newsletter. As I write this, autumn is in full swing. From the leaves on the trees changing into their beautiful spectrum of fall colors, to the many different species of animals now packing their bags for warmer climates. There's a clear sign in the air above, old man winter is on his way. Where did summer go? Bring it back! Autumn also marks the time when MACAW gets down to business in planning for the next year. I'll start out with some current events and then slowly take us there.

Thanks to all of you who were able to join us for the annual MACAW Picnic last month. The food was delicious and the company was great. Few things can beat good company, delicious

food and talking about birds. Also, thanks to all of you who made it to Animart's Pet Fest. A big thanks goes especially to Kim, Kathy and her husband Steve who all did an outstanding job of outreaching to the public about birds and answering their bird questions. Both Kim and Kathy brought something furry or feathery and certainly interesting with them to pique the public's curiosity. Well, okay, Kathy's babies were still a little bald, but the feathers they did have were very colorful.

Our next meeting is this Sunday, October 12th. Sophie Dennison, BVM&S, a UW Radiology Resident, will talk about her ongoing research into avian gastrointestinal disease. This is cutting edge research happening now at UW. Sophie will be discussing and demonstrating this research at our meeting. There's also an opportunity for us to

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participate in this research if any of our birds become ill. Sophie will tell us more about this at the meeting. I will also include a print-out of her info in this newsletter.

I am looking for a speaker for November. If anyone has any suggestions, please send me a note. In December we will hold our annual Christmas Party and elections for club officers. Would you like to join the MACAW Board and help steer the future direction of MACAW? This is your opportunity.

How would you like to be part of something big, I mean really BIG? Well, there's just that kind of opportunity waiting for you if you volunteer to help with the MACAW Bird Fair in May. We're going to need a lot of help putting this event together and in running it. We need ticket takers to ticket sellers, raffle table managers, greeters, organizers and help setting up tables. We need volunteers for two hour



SWEETIE'S BITES

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR SWEETIE'S BITES. EMAIL KIMBERLEY AT AKASHA3691@AOL.COM

spots to all day spots. If you would like to be a part of this BIG event, please email me.

Hope to see you this Sunday!

Steve

How to manage your bird's excessive territoriality

By Liz Wilson, CVT

In the wild, a parrot's territorial instinct is extremely strong, because he must protect his territory from invasion. You may also see this territoriality in action in your companion bird. When your bird drives everyone away from his turf, he is exhibiting excessive territoriality, and if unchecked, this behavior can become a serious problem that threatens your bird's future as a companion animal.

Some bird enthusiasts feel parrots should be allowed to be territorial around their cages, but most behavior consultants disagree. It is also not fair to assume that your bird must be at your every beck and call, coming out for interaction whenever it suits your schedule.

Just as children are allowed privacy in their own rooms, parrots should have the right to decline human interaction.

Experienced caretakers recognize this through careful observation of psittacine body language, and they respect a bird's privacy by not approaching during these times.

Excessively territorial companion parrots act like they outrank everyone in their flocks. To resolve this misunderstanding, you should establish nonaggressive controls by patterning your bird to respond to simple commands like "up" and "down."

Daily training sessions should happen in a neutral room, or in an area the bird doesn't consider his own, and on a neutral perch such as the back of a chair.

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Once the bird is responding to commands, you can start moving the training perch slowly out of the neutral area and into the area of your bird's cage. By moving a few inches at a time and then working again on the commands, you can make certain your bird responds correctly. Then, praise him for his good behavior.

Once in view of your bird's cage, training may become more difficult, but with patience and consistency, most birds will respond again to the commands.

When the cage is finally reached, you can step the bird into it with the "down" command, then immediately pick it up with the "up" command. Repeating this several times will teach your parrot that the commands also work in and around his cage. Repeat this process on the cage top and on any other of your bird's favorite hangouts.

Once your bird is trained, and he wants out of his cage, he must step onto the hand when you say "up." Do not just open the cage door and let him come out on his own, or he might conclude that he is in control again. Continue to use the commands every day, to remind him that the rules are still in force.

By following these easy training techniques and handling your parrot in a firm, loving, unaggressive and consistent manner, you can keep control of your headstrong bundle of feathers and maintain a mutually loving relationship.

This article is courtesy of ZuPreem. MACAW is proud to be a member of the ZuPreem Preferred Club Program, an exclusive program reserved for a select number of bird clubs. Aside from letting us reprint their articles, ZuPreem also donates a bucket of their gourmet food and other goodies for every two articles or ads we print in our newsletter. ZuPreem is also an honorary member of MACAW.

Do you want to advertise your business in the M.A.C.A.W. newsletter?

Business Card size ads are \$2.50 for members and \$5.00 for nonmembers. Inserts are \$20.00 plus you must provide the printed flyers to insert.

Birdy Mart

Due to moving: Free to a loving home:

A 13 week old grey cockatiel, who is hand fed and is very affectionate. Cages, cover, food and toys included. call: Nancy or Don at 608-274-3955 or e-mail, USING KEY WORD: cockatiel to: fairday@terracom.net

MACAW MEMBERSHIP FORM

Just \$20.00 for a one year family membership!

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 State/Zip _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 Type of birds owned _____

Pet Owner Breeder Supplier of Bird Related Products

Yes, want to help with club activities and/or events

New Membership Renewal

Please make checks payable to MACAW and mail to Paula Fitzsimmons, MACAW Membership Director, 5209 Odana Road, Madison, WI 53711

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

- MadCat Pet Supplies offers MACAW members 10% off everything avian related including food.
- Animart and Mounds offer MACAW members 10% off everything except food (show MACAW membership card).
- Paula of PJ Publications offers MACAW members 15% off of their entire purchase.

Education Calendar
By Paula Fitzsimmons

OCTOBER 12, 2008

SOPHIE DENNISON, BVM&S, A UW RADIOLOGY RESIDENT WILL TALK ABOUT HER ONGOING RESEARCH INTO AVIAN GASTROINTESTINAL DISEASE.

Where: Dane County Humane Society, at 5132 Voges Road in Madison (in the large room).



When: Every second Sunday of the Month, excluding June-August.

Times: Board meeting is 1:30pm until 2:00pm (you are invited to attend); hospitality break is from 2:00pm until 2:30pm; and the educational portion starts at 2:30pm.

These meetings are free and open to the public. Bring your friends!

STEVE FITZSIMMONS
PRESIDENT OF M.A.C.A.W
5209 ODANA RD.
MADISON, WI 53711



WE ARE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://MACAW.AXISDATA.COM/](http://macaw.axisdata.com/)

TIME SENSITIVE, PLEASE RUSH!