



So you.....

Want to Adopt or Foster a Companion Bird?

(Birds are strictly NOT to be bred, traded/sold)

Firstly, *please* [read this article](http://viemagazine.com/article/ten-reasons-you-shouldnt-get-a-parrot/), before you even consider a bird in your life- it pretty much states all the facts you need to be aware of and prepared for. <http://viemagazine.com/article/ten-reasons-you-shouldnt-get-a-parrot/>



Agapi's Sanctuary, is a privately owned bird Sanctuary, funded and managed by Paris Yves Read, a Bird Behaviourist & Holistic Counsellor....amongst other things!

There are thousands of abused or surrendered birds in Australia that need to be fostered or adopted/rehomed. It is illegal and impossible to release companion birds into the wild- and they just won't survive.

I have compiled brief information below to help people considering adopting/fostering birds/parrots that need to be adopted or rehomed from previous carers or pounds/rescues.

It is recommended that this information be read and understood before making a decision to commit to adopting or fostering a bird.

I don't know you- and you probably don't know me well- so I don't know your expertise and experience with birds, which is why I have some questions below for you to complete. So please don't consider my questions below as demeaning your bird experience and knowledge- I am just trying to get to know you and your suitability for birds- just like you would ask similar questions if on a dating site or wanting to adopt or foster a human child.

I am always here for you to help you, ask me any questions before and after adoption/fostering birds- you will always have my support.

Whilst few people feel I am strict regarding bird care, I am simply going by my experience of adopting hundreds of birds over the years and my extensive literature learning. At the end of the day, I want the birds to be happy, healthy and content with their life.

If the birds are happy...then I am happy.

I don't train birds- **I guide birds**- they have a brain to think for themselves and don't need to be manipulated, brainwashed, coerced or tricked into doing something to make us feel 'we have controlled a bird.'

Only adults over the age of 25 years of age can adopt or foster birds- children by themselves (under 18) are **not** mature or suited to care for birds as they are not capable of understanding or providing the constant care required, due to school, social life and especially their maturity and sense of responsibility has not developed yet physiologically.

And I have a strict policy that new owners are not to have dogs/cats, especially roaming in the areas where the birds are kept. I don't care how many 'funny' videos there are of birds on dog backs on Youtube- eventually the dog will turn and bite or kill the bird- same with the cats. The same goes for rats, snakes etc. I hear tragic, irresponsible stories all the time!

So thank you for your passion for birds, your time and consideration to adopt or foster a bird.

I am grateful for your regard and passion to be a new owner to a bird who desperately needs a new loving home.

There are 7 Vital Aspects to Caring for Birds:

1. **Bird Behaviour**- birds experience the same psychology as people do- each bird is an individual with individual character traits, just like people.
2. **Bird Environment**- a bird's environment and housing influences birds just as people's environment influences people.
3. **Bird Cleaning Care**- bird areas need to be constantly cleaned with safe products- it is not enough to change a bird tray once a day- as birds poop throughout the day- just like people- so it is important that daily mopping and cleaning is a regular ritual- just as it is for people daily having showers and keeping their homes clean!
4. **Bird Medical Care**- birds have almost similar physiological problems and they need regular holistic medical care just as people do.

5. **Bird Nutrition/ Diet**- birds require strict nutrition to be physically and emotionally healthy, just as people do.
6. **Bird Empathy & Love**- birds need to be respectfully loved and respected just as people do- love, love and more love and lots of patience!
7. **Bird Holistic Care**- birds communicate telepathically and have a deep sense of empathy, intuition and sensing people's energies- just as some people do.

Dedicating your life WITH a Bird

Most companion birds have lived in at least 2 homes with previous owners, plus most often were kept or bred on a bird breeding farm. And these farms are far from ethical or caring.

So it is ideal that the next home a bird lives in has a high likelihood of being a long-term home to avoid the bird feeling rejected or missing the current loving home he/she needs to leave.

If you choose to adopt a bird, you must be 100% committed to ensure that the bird's life is a better life than before. This can often mean that the bird had a challenging past and has developed behavioural and emotional issues that you need to be prepared to work on, long term, with no guaranteed 'due date.'

Also your lifestyle will change- unlike a dog, it is not safe or so possible to drive your bird around to your daily chores. Birds need to rest and sleep throughout the day in a quiet, safe environment- they cannot be expected to move around as a human child would. I say human child, because we often refer to our birds as "our children"- well I do anyway.

The birds I hope to adopt/foster out to you are not a 'lucky prize' or to be bred or sold/traded.

Once your application is successful as a competent owner to adopt or foster a bird, the bird must receive an annual veterinary check-up at least and you must ensure that you have budgeted the daily costs required to provide for the feeding, housing and enrichment of the bird.

So you will be required to undertake extensive training with me- don't worry, there is a lot of free help from me too- and long term care processes to ensure the bird's happiness first, and then your happiness at the same time.

Because if your bird is not happy, trust me, you will not be either!

I am here as your new Bird Allie to help you every step of the way and to make you feel you are part of a larger bird/parrot lover's community where we can all share our experiences. I will invite you to my facebook page: [Agapi's Sanctuary](#)- for all new adoption and foster bird carers.

Financial Commitment

The initial adoption or foster application is \$100. This covers any costs incurred by me regarding the bird and especially the first session of educating you about bird care- I will prepare hours worth of specialised written notes for you and your bird to ensure the bird has a smooth transition into your household. The notes include bird care and bird behaviour tips. Each bird is different and an individual, so all bird notes are different. Also you are expected to undertake an initial bird blood test at your expense. I will guide you through the process of this also. I also request that copies of the blood tests are sent to me for confirmation. Blood testing is done as a simple prick on the foot- as it is less stressful to birds than a blood test prick on the body.

Bird care in Australia has been severely hidden and under-regarded by bird breeders/sellers and the Pet shop industry. Australians have been falsely taught that birds are easy and cheap to care for: “seeds, some fruit, a cage will be right mate.”

No this is not right.

Birds have constant financial daily requirements, e.g. clean water throughout the day, healthy foods including organic dry foods and organic nuts and organic fruits and vegetables. I even include filtered water and naturopathic products.

Birds require to live in an environment where they can walk and fly free- in larger aviaries or open door large cages on decks e.t.c.:

- birds should never live in small closed door cages
- birds should ideally live in outdoor aviaries carefully built for the protection of the birds
- birds kept indoors in bedrooms, laundries, kitchens, living rooms etc is just **wrong** for obvious ‘ethical and logical’ reasons
- birds are not born to live indoors, birds should enjoy the natural weather elements
- birds should feel they live amongst nature as their instinct tells them to.

Additional bird expenses include toys- I prefer the natural, colour-free, toys made from clean balsa wood and clean sisal ropes- many toys you can make on your own also to save money and feel creative whilst doing something for the happiness of your bird and with your bird! I am happy to share further ideas with you!



Why Do Birds Need To Be Rehomed?

Birds require rehoming due to the following reasons:

- lost and unclaimed birds given to pounds
- owners unable to care for birds e.g. financial, moving house/state/country, death of owner, owners feel they cannot handle bird care anymore, owners want to travel more, owners want to have their own human babies etc.

Highly Possible Problems Whilst Caring For Birds

- feather plucking/chewing themselves- can be environmental or medical
- screaming/shouting/constantly calling out to you (adopt a snail instead if you want quiet)- did you know, that it is normal for birds to make Noise and it is normal for cockatoos to scream? **So please consider if your home is suitable to house a cockatoo.**
- fear of you
- biting you
- ignoring you
- medical problems
- jealous of your partner/friends/children/another bird!

Do these problems sound familiar? Same as people problems???

It is best that birds get along with everyone in the household- it is not healthy for the bird to be close onto to one family member- because this causes jealousy/biting problems to both the owner and the household members/guests, and also it causes sexual frustration problems from the bird.

Which is the reason I always suggest that you adopt/foster 2 birds of the same species preferably.

All of these problems are manageable as long as you are ***patient patient patient!***

Bird ownership is not about showing off to your friends and family how cute and close a bird is with you on your shoulder.

When you adopt/foster a bird, you need to be familiar with as much history of the bird as possible, including the bird's behaviour. You will be given that information from me to help you know how to guide the bird to a happier life.

It is essential that you **honestly** assess your degree of bird care and welfare knowledge and honest ability to live with a bird who needs attention, care and love.

What if you can't handle the bird you adopted/fostered?

I will be there beside you to support you during any problems you may have. Please keep in mind that I care for many birds myself whilst working to pay for bird care etc and I often cannot be available to you 24/- unless it is an absolute emergency.

So please be prepared with your written questions and pictures/videos so I may help you. I am here to work as a team with you in the interests of the bird. If it is absolutely impossible for you to live with your bird, then I am here to adopt or rehome the bird- ensuring the most safest and protective option for the bird.

Why is Adopting/ Fostering a Bird a blessed gift for our wellbeing:

Some birds are in current happy well-cared for homes, but most birds live in neglectful or abusive condition and small fly-less cages and environments. So whilst it takes time for birds to trust new carers, the unconditional love they give us once they learn that they can trust us to understand and love them, is unbelievable.

Birds force us to stop and be one with nature, to listen to their sounds, to relax and ground ourselves- a type of meditation if you like. Birds can hear, see and feel everything we do, so when you show them love, their hearts will spring and return back love to you!

ADOPTION/ FOSTER APPLICATION

Please complete this form with your details

Name

What type of bird/ parrot would you like to adopt? (If adopting a cockatoo, please note that they shout very loud and are only suitable where neighbours are not too close).

Why do you want to adopt a bird?

Why do you feel you are qualified to adopt a bird?

What are the 10 reasons for you "Should Not Get a Parrot?" According to Bill Weckel?

Your Facebook name/Social Media Pages/ Website:

Age

Address

City, State, PC

Phone Home

Work

Best time to call and preferred phone number

Occupation

Signature

Life partner or co-tenant

Does he/she agree with the parrot adoption?

Children and their ages (living at home or during custody arrangements):

Partner's/Co-tenant's Occupation

If the present personal relationship was to change, who would keep and care for the bird?

Do all members in your household know you are planning to adopt a parrot?

Who will be the bird's primary caretaker?

How many hours daily would the bird be left alone?

Type of accommodation: House Unit Apartment Flat:

Rural: Other

Do you rent ? Own your home?

If you rent, do you have the landlord's permission to own a bird?

Does anyone, including you, in your home smoke/take drugs/medications?

Is anyone, including you, in your household an alcoholic?

Does anyone, including you, in your household have mental health problems?

Do you own any other birds or pets? If yes, what are they and how many are there?

Will you accept a bird with current behavioural problems?

Will you accept a physically handicapped bird?

If you travel (not local) for work or pleasure, who'd take care of the bird while you're away?

Do you have an Avian Vet?

Do we have permission to contact your vet for references?

If yes, enter the vet's name and number

How do you plan to guide your parrot? In addition to support and education from me?

Parrots can require a lot of attention and maintenance. Medical attention and properly feeding the bird can be expensive. Have you considered this?

If you were to move out of state, would you contact me to notify me of the bird's changed care conditions so I can help the bird find another suitable home?

Under what circumstances would you NOT be able to keep the bird?
Divorce/Separation ___ ___ New Baby ___ ___ New Job ___ ___ Allergies ___ ___
New Relationship ___ ___ Illness ___ ___ Preferring one person over another ___ ___

Would you permit inspection of your home prior to an adoption?

Would you allow a post adoption visit to your home by me?

How would you quarantine your bird if you had to from your other birds?

Describe what you think are signs of illness in a bird

Certain household products and situations could kill a bird. What do you think these may be?

Birds should have a daily diet of a variety of vitamins to support their immune system- What foods would you feed to a bird?

What are some of the foods toxic to birds?

Where in or outside of your house will the bird's cage be located? Can you send me photos or videos to show this?

How would you determine the proper cage/aviary size?

What materials are safe for perches?

Why is it necessary to have different size/thickness perches?

List some toxic household cleaners and plants

I kindly request that in the event you cannot keep your bird, you must contact me immediately. Birds are **not to be bred, not to be traded/swapped or sold to anyone including pet shops or breeders**. If your bird flies away or is stolen, please notify us immediately so we can post in the Lost Birds social media pages. If the bird sadly passes, we will also require reason and proof of physical death and vet report.

Please know, that whilst we like to trust all new carers, we are simply looking out for the welfare of the bird.

We don't know you yet, as you don't know us, so we are just trying to make this process professional, ethical and strict so that the birds are not taken advantage of in any way.

Signature:

Name (print):

Date

Thank you so much for your passion for birds!

Agapi's Sanctuary

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