



*Many have forgotten this truth, but you must not forget it.
You remain responsible, forever, for what you have tamed.*

— Antoine de Saint - Exupery

A 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation promoting education, rescue, rehabilitation, adoption and sanctuary for the needs of companion parrots.

There is rumor and misinformation circulating about The Gabriel Foundation and its actions on behalf of 31 macaws that are under the care of the Commonwealth of Virginia. TGF has received numerous angry emails from “concerned” individuals about these birds, disparaging TGF regarding our involvement or motives. The following information is a summary of TGF’s involvement, responsibility and accountability with the Commonwealth of VA and all other parties involved. TGF was contacted and asked to provide information and assistance about options available for the birds and their owners by both the owners’ legal representative and by a representative from the Commonwealth of VA. TGF never solicited any involvement.

It is important to remember that the Commonwealth of VA has made this ruling to which the birds’ owners, Orange County Animal Control and The Gabriel Foundation and its assigns must adhere. Here are the facts:

1. The birds were located in Virginia;
2. The birds had been purchased as a group many years earlier; some of the birds had (previously) hatched young while in the care of the present owners;
3. The birds reportedly had lived in shelters outdoors their entire lives;
4. As part of an agreement between the owners and the Commonwealth of Virginia the birds were to go into a “certified” avian sanctuary or shelter for some period of time;
5. The birds’ owners have legal representation and it was requested that the Commonwealth allow the owners the opportunity to locate suitable placement for the birds;
6. The owners or their legal representative(s) were informed that they would be financially responsible for all care and veterinary costs incurred on behalf of their birds;
7. TGF has had no contact with the owners – and has communicated only with their attorney;
8. TGF was contacted in early July by the attorney for the birds’ owners regarding specific information about TGF’s long term foster care program, costs, requirements and availability.
9. TGF was contacted on Wednesday, July 9, 2008 by an Animal Control Officer for Orange County, VA with questions regarding TGF’s long term foster care program in regard to these 31 macaws.
10. In resolution, The Commonwealth of VA made the decision to place the birds in the care of The Gabriel Foundation and set a date for the birds’ owners to transfer the macaws to TGF at the predetermined location for the effective time period.

For public information:

TGF has a small network of parrot caregivers located nationwide to assist in the event of an emergency; those caregivers agree to uphold the mission and purpose of The Gabriel Foundation, its avian medical requirements, its standard of care and protocols of practice. Each of these caregivers is under the supervision of The Gabriel Foundation and fully agrees to comply with our standards of care; birds are never to be used for breeding purposes;

TGF insures that its standards of care for husbandry, medical care, nutrition and enrichment will apply to all birds in foster care regardless of their location and based on the best interests of the individual bird(s) involved;

TGF receives no financial gain whatsoever when asked to provide information about or intervene on behalf of birds in need of assistance;

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TGF ultimately bears financial responsibility for the well-being, veterinary and routine care of all birds in its long term foster care program, regardless of their location;

TGF must charge a minimum per diem rate to help to offset the cost of care for birds in long term foster care; it is reasonable and customary to request funds to offset cost of care for the birds.

TGF's founder and president is legally bound by the laws of the IRS for 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and its rules for 'self-dealing'; Julie Murad has never received any financial compensation from The Gabriel Foundation since its inception in 1996; any financial support given by Murad to The Gabriel Foundation is in strict accordance with the rules and regulations governing 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations and IRS tax guidelines and limitations.

The Gabriel Foundation is an upstanding organization whose sole purpose is parrot welfare concerning the needs of parrots everywhere. Information about TGF's programs is available at www.thegabrielfoundation.org. Financial information about The Gabriel Foundation is available at www.guidestar.org and upon request. Visitors are encouraged and welcome at TGF's Aviary and Adoption Center. As a privately operated (non-municipal) parrot welfare organization and shelter, The Gabriel Foundation is 100% dependent upon the support of its members, donators, grantors and other revenue generating programs and receives no city, county, state, or federal funding for its operating programs.