



1025 Acoma Street
Denver, CO 80204
303-629-5900
www.thegabrielfoundation.org

"Many have forgotten this truth but you must not forget it. You remain responsible, forever, for what you have tamed" ~Antoine de Saint-Exupery

The Gabriel Foundation® is a 501(c)3 avicultural and veterinary affiliated parrot welfare organization licensed by the State of Colorado, promoting educational outreach, conservation, rescue, rehabilitation, adoption and sanctuary pertaining to the needs of parrots everywhere. Tax ID #84-1396085

The Gabriel Foundation Parrot Adoption Information For Small Parrots (Budgies, Lovebirds, Cockatiels, Quakers)

We're delighted you are interested in the birds and programs of The Gabriel Foundation. We have so many wonderful birds in our adoption program just waiting for their forever home! You've taken the first step toward adding a feathered friend to your family.

What is the adoption process?

We start with an **Adoption Application**. We use this valuable tool to help us find a bird that fits with your personality, lifestyle, experience and expectations. Once we have reviewed the application, an appointment will be set up with you to meet birds in our program that may be a good fit based on the information you provided. There is a **required class** called Mini Birdie Basics class. This is a one day "live" class is offered approximately every other month for those and is geared toward the smaller species of parrots such as Cockatiels, Lovebirds and Budgies. We ask all adopters to take a **tour of the Aviary** in Elizabeth where the most of the birds are housed. This will allow you to see a variety of species of birds, see enrichments and housing options and get an idea how the birds are fed and cared for on a daily basis. Once you have chosen the bird (or birds) that you wish to take into your family, we will do a **home visit** to help you get everything ready for your new feathered companion.

What if I already have birds in my home?

Great! You have some idea what you are getting yourself into! Every bird that comes into The Gabriel Foundation is screened for viruses and general health. We require birds in the home of the potential adopter to meet those same standards – for the health and safety of our birds as well as theirs. The medical requirements have been set up by our co-medical directors, Dr. Kris Ahlgrim and Dr. Jerry Labonde. A copy of those requirements will be provided.

What are the fees involved in adoption from The Gabriel Foundation?

There is a **\$45** application fee. This fee covers a one year membership to The Gabriel Foundation (or one year extension if you are already a member – **value \$25**) and an

educational DVD called “Captive Foraging” (**value \$25**). Regardless of whether you choose to continue with the adoption process or not, these educational materials will be extremely helpful when you do bring a new bird into your home.

The required class has a **\$15** fee for adopters with an active application on file.

The adoption fees vary from bird to bird. In general, the Budgerigars are \$25, Lovebirds are \$40, Cockatiels are \$50 and Quakers are \$75. These adoption fees include all the medical testing and veterinary exams already! Once you have chosen a specific bird (or birds) we can give you an exact fee. Consideration is given for a reduced fee for more than one bird adopted to the home at the same time.

How long does the adoption take to complete?

Generally, depending on how quickly you “connect” with a bird, you can expect the adoption process to take between 2-4 weeks for the bird to come to your home. There is a 90 probationary adoption period initially during which time you will be asked to send regular reports to us on how the adjustment is going. At the end of the 90 days, assuming all is going well and you wish to make the bird a permanent member of your household, permanent adoption paperwork will be sent for you to complete.

It seems like The Gabriel Foundation makes the adoption process very difficult!

Why is this?

The combined years of experience we all bring to The Gabriel Foundation ranging from veterinary medicine, aviculture, companion parrot care and parrot welfare has helped develop a protocol that sets the birds up for the best chance of success. It is not our intent to frustrate anyone or make it impossible to add a bird to your family. We take the responsibility for each bird in our care very seriously and we want them to be successful in their new home. We take time to make sure the new family has all the tools needed for long term success. We are invested in the lifetime of each bird that comes through The Gabriel Foundation and we appreciate that you are taking the time to commit to that same level of care.

A downloadable **Adoption Application for Small Parrots** is available on our website www.thegabrielfoundation.org

To **view birds** in our adoption program, go to www.petfinder.com. Use the search parameters “birds” for type of animal and the zip code 80204 to get to TGF birds. Currently, very few of our birds are on this site. We have many more at the aviary which is why a tour is recommended!

For more information about the adoption process, contact Patti Christie, CVT at adoptions@thegabrielfoundation.org or call 303-629-5900 x 213.