



"Parrots: Their Lives... Our Choice"

Spring 2015

ABOUT ADOPTING A BIRD FROM THE GABRIEL FOUNDATION

To provide clarity about our adoption process, we want any potential adoption applicant or adopter to have as much information as possible about what's involved in the process before submitting his/her adoption application. Adopting from TGF involves important, different steps from beginning to end. We consider that the adopter, bird and TGF enter into a lifetime relationship (especially for the bird!) once an adoption application is submitted. Our mutual interests span a variety of topics about many aspects of sharing life with a bird which could range from five to fifty years. Adopters work closely with different TGF staff members to help determine a match that is great for you and the adopted bird. Our process may be different than other bird clubs or parrot adoption organizations. The best outcome is that every potential adopter pursues the adoption option which is, "don't breed, don't buy, adopt. We've learned a lot over twenty years from hundreds of birds and people about what makes an adoption work, and sometimes, why it fails. When you visit our Facebook page, we share happy tales of adoption. In 2014, TGF completed over 150 bird adoptions of diverse bird species and personalities. Even better, many previous adopters return to TGF to add another feathered friend to their family or flock. Our belief is that each bird and person is a study of one. This unique relationship is why the length of time from an adoption's start to finish won't be the same for everyone. If you'd like to inquire about the adoption process, you can submit online to us at <https://thegabrielfoundation.org/about/contact/> and select adoption inquiry from the dropdown list.

To officially start the adoption application process, you must complete and submit our online adoption application. If you do not have Internet access, an adoption application can be mailed or faxed to you. Or you can come into either of our locations and complete your application online or in person. TGF's adoption application fee is \$75, which includes a basic membership to TGF (\$25.00 value) and the educational material of your choice (\$25.00 value) in addition to an invite to take our online Beyond the Bird Basics (BBB) class (\$25.00 value). Completing BBB is mandatory (in most situations) before adoption is finalized. If you're interested in adopting a finch, budgerigar, cockatiel, lovebird, dove, pigeon or some poultry, that adoption application fee is \$25.00, and includes an invite to BBB and access to all resource materials for the care and feeding of these species. Any bird's adoption fee is not included in the adoption application fee. We will provide you an average adoption fee for a particular species during the adoption process or at any time before, but the actual adoption fee for your bird of choice may vary. **TGF's adoption application fee is non-refundable.** We want you to be comfortable working with our adoption guidelines before your adoption application is submitted and the process begins.

Up front we want potential adopters to know that that it can take up to 8 weeks to complete. Some adoptions may take longer. As we expect from you, TGF staff will commit a significant amount of time to help the adoption process succeed. You will participate in at least 3 adoption meet-and-greets with different birds and with the bird that's captured your heart. During this time the adoption counselor will work together with you about bird body language, behavior, some basic training techniques, step- and step-down, in and out of the crate, environmental enrichment, diet, housing, bathing, safe out of cage and outdoor time, exercise, veterinary care, travel and more about some of knowledge and skills that you'll need to share your home and life live with the bird. You will complete TGF's pre-adoption discussion notes which are designed for you to set up and think about unknowns regarding your bird in place for your new family member once it gets home. These notes are intended so you can

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Founded in 1995, The Gabriel Foundation is a 501(c)(3) avicultural and veterinary affiliated parrot welfare organization licensed by the State of Colorado, whose mission and purpose is to provide safe sanctuary and care for parrots in need, match extraordinary birds with caring adopters, and to inspire and encourage all to responsibly improve the lives of companion parrots. Tax Identification 84.1396085



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Imagine what life with your adopted bird will look like. We ask adopters to submit photos of the bird's environment: cage (either if you have one or the link to a similar one) and this cage is subject to TGF approval, the bird's living and sleeping areas, plus photos of other parts of the home where the bird will be included. If you have an outside cage or aviary, crate, carrier or travel cage, and other goodies that you have planned for the bird please share those photos with us. We are looking at the bird's overall environment.

Every bird undergoes an intake exam and diagnostic testing plus an exit exam prior to adoption. The exit exam is scheduled with one of our veterinarians, depending on the bird's most recent medical history. If the to be adopted bird has special toys, they will accompany the bird. You'll be provided cooked and dry food mixes, along with a couple of days' worth of fresh bird food to transition your bird during the move. Once the bird transitions to your home, we require scheduled follow ups during the 3 month probationary period. Your follow up reports are reviewed and often our input is provided to you. We want to help both you and the bird get off to a good start and exploring expectations is important.

When any of us takes on the responsibility for a bird's lifetime, it's a major commitment as life changes are constantly around us. We see that first-hand every day when birds come in to our care. Our adoption policy has been created to work with you through each step of the process. We understand that sometimes how we move forward isn't fast enough for some folks. Others might not want or be able to make the time or commitment for these visits as outlined in our policy. It takes effort, time and commitment from you and from us during the process which we've continued to improve during the past 20 years. Whether you move forward with a TGF adoption, or you adopt a bird from any other bird club or parrot adoption organization, you are giving that bird a home that it deserves. That is good news for everyone all the way around.

One of the first things that you can do is to take our tour which you can book online. It's a good way to see for yourself if working with us will be a good fit for you. We work with out of area and out of state adopters, and each one of these bird adoption situations is taken one at a time. We love visitors, interns and adopters and have many people from around the US and other countries come to visit.

We're open to questions and appreciate your feedback.

Happy Tales!

The Gabriel Foundation Adoption Committee

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