**ABOUT ADOPTING A BIRD FROM THE GABRIEL FOUNDATION:**

***Adoption, Foster Care and Senior Bird/Person Programs***

TGF’s ultimate goal is to find homes for as many birds as possible to shorten the bird’s length of stay under our daily care. This approach enables TGF and caregivers to find the best bird and program match for their futures. We offer three separate programs to help our fabulous flock find caring adopters with optimistic and realistic expectations: Adoption, Foster, and Senior Adoption.

1. **Adoption** – applies to the majority of our birds that are available for adoption. We have post adoption follow ups at 24 hours, 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months, then finalize the adoption, and follow up once yearly after that. We love to keep in touch with our adopters. It helps us to know how the adoption has fared, the development of the relationships and activities, and the surprises, joys and disappointments (if any) regarding the adopted bird.

The adopter agrees that for any reason that he/she is unable to keep the bird that the adopted bird returns to TGF.

There are two different adoption application fees: $25.00 (limited to specific species) and $75.00 for all other birds. The bird adoption fee is in addition to the application fee. None of these fees are tax deductible by IRS rules and regulations for 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations.

1. **Foster Care** – this program applies to some TGF birds whose welfare would be better, in TGF’s assessment, in a foster home. Birds that are in the TGF Foster program are determined by TGF staff, and they may have chronic, or sometimes acute, problems: behavior, specialty diet, adaptive housing, chronic medical needs, age, physical condition, behavioral problems with our flock or environment.

Foster care providers take on the cost of caring for the bird, and any expenditures with a valuation of $250 or greater per year per TGF foster bird are tax deductible to the foster care provider when receipts are submitted to TGF that we can provide a donation valuation for IRS purposes.

The foster application fee is $25.00, and the bird foster placement fee is $50. A cage may or may not be provided depending upon the circumstance for each bird. TGF’s bird placement protocol consists of online post adoption follow up 24-hours, 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months and then annually which applies to birds placed into foster care.

1. **Senior Bird/Person Adoption** – TGF has made this highly successful annual event an ongoing program for human seniors (by AARP definition, 50 years or older) and bird’s age, with “senior” loosely defined by species.

The application fee for our Senior Adoption program is $50.00, and the bird’s adoption fee is about 50% less than our regular adoption fees. For an additional amount, TGF will provide a species-suitable cage unless the senior adopter already has a cage, etc. approved by TGF for the specific senior bird.

No offense is intended to anyone, but TGF holds firm on the applicant’s minimum age requirement. None of these fees are tax deductible by IRS rules and regulations for 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations. TGF’s bird placement protocol consists of online post adoption follow up 24-hours, 3 days, 3 weeks, 3 months and then annually which applies to birds placed into Foster care. Senior Adoption fees are not tax deductible by IRS rules and regulations for 501(c) (3) nonprofit organizations.

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 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 more information about the adoption process, you can submit your questions online to us at <http://thegabrielfoundation.org/adoption-inquiry-form/>.

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. You may also come into either of our locations and complete your application online or in person.

TGF’s adoption application fee is $75, non-refundable, which includes a basic membership to TGF ($25.00 value) and the educational material of your choice ($25.00 value) in addition to our online Beyond the Bird Basics (BBB) class ($25.00 value). Completing BBB is mandatory (in most situations) before adoption is finalized.

TGF’s $25 Adoption Application fee applies to persons interested adopting a finch, budgerigar, cockatiel, lovebird, dove, pigeon or some poultry. The Adoption Application Fee is non-refundable and includes our online Beyond the Bird Basics (BBB) class ($25.00 value). We ask that you complete Section 1 and Section 2 for adoption, plus access to all resource materials for the care and feeding of any companion bird species.

TGF’s Foster Care application is $25.00, and TGF’s Senior Bird/Person application fee is $25.00.

**A** **bird’s adoption fee is NOT included in any of these application fees.** 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, Foster Care and Senior Bird/Person application fees are non-refundable.** We want you to be comfortable working with our adoption guidelines before your adoption application is submitted and the process begins. **Whichever program you have selected, your paid bird application fee will be honored for 12 months from the date of its receipt.**

From the very beginning, we want potential adopters to know that that it can take up to 8 weeks to complete TGF’s adoption process. Some adoptions may take longer; others may be shorter. As we expect from you, TGF staff commits 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, different adoption counselors will work together with you to focus on 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 review of TGF’s family discussion notes designed to help you plan for unknowns regarding your new family member once it arrives home. These notes are intended so you can imagine what life with your adopted bird will look like.

We ask adopters to submit photos/videos about the bird’s environment: cage (either if you have one or the link to a similar one) which is subject to TGF approval, the bird’s living, outdoor 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 to match your, the bird and your expectations for success.

Every bird that enters TGF undergoes a complete wellness 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. All birds > 100gm/weight are microchipped. 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 to its new schedule 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, triumphs and questions are important.

When any one 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 mutual effort, time and commitment from all of us during the process which we’ve continued to improve during the past 21 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 actions requested of you is to take a tour of the Aviary & Adoption Center in Elizabeth which can be booked and paid for online. Discounted tour pre-payments can be booked online. Tour payments are **non-refundable** but will be honored for 6 months from date of payment. We love visitors, interns and adopters and have many people from around the US and other countries who come to visit. **Please note that tours must be scheduled with us ahead of time**, so that we can make sure we have a tour docent available. For more tour information and to make a reservation online: <https://thegabrielfoundation.org/about/tour-tgf/>

We look forward to working with you and we’re open to your questions and appreciate feedback.

Thank you for your interest in giving a bird in need a new home!

**The Gabriel Foundation Adoption Committee**

If you’re looking at TGF’s available birds on Petfinder, please note that occasionally there are technical problems with photos and uploads from our database to Petfinder. If you find a bird without a photo/story, please contact us at adoptions@thegabrielfoundation.org so we can offer you more information.

**If you are interested in one of TGF’s adoption programs, and you live out of area or out of state:**

TGF does allow adoption out of state and considers each situation individually. Some questions depend upon your history with birds, your ability to come visit at TGF and stay for at least 2 nights to be able to go home with a bird, and a completed and submitted bird adoption application. It’s important for us to know that you have a veterinarian with a special interest in avian medicine, that you complete our online class, Beyond the Bird Basics, and that you have information about our adoption process.

Parker, CO is about 15 miles from our Elizabeth, CO aviary and adoption center. There are 3 motels in Parker: the Hampton Inn, Super 8 and Holiday Inn Express plus coffee shops, chain and local restaurants. It’s a very charming little town of about 50K people. Other nearby areas with motels and restaurants include Castle Rock, Aurora Southlands, Park Meadows, and the Denver Tech Center. The majority of our birds are at the Elizabeth location, but about 200 more reside at our Denver location. There are many great hotels and restaurants in Denver if you’re interested in a city evening or two. It’s about a 45-60 minute drive between our Denver and Elizabeth locations, depending upon time and day.

We want to provide you ample time to meet with a bird. Once we know more about you and your bird preferences, lifestyle and expectations, we will work with you to find suitable candidates in a variety of species.