The *Essentials* of Parrot Behavior

PARROTS: THEIR LIVES, OUR CHOICE.

THE Gabriel FOUNDATION

Created by
The Gabriel Foundation

What is Behavior?

- Behavior is **anything** an individual does.
- Examples: vocalizing, flying, biting, feather preening.

Covert behavior is internal (private to the individual such as thinking or feeling)

Overt behavior is observable by others (ie. the feather positioning of the Eclectus pictured here)

Parrots cannot tell us what they are thinking or feeling (covert), so we pay attention to and work with observable (overt) behavior–which is what a parrot does that can be observed and measured.

Avoiding Labels

In order to work with behavior we need to know what the behavior of interest is. **Labels** are not observable so they don't tell us what behavior(s) a bird is doing.

The following are not behaviors, they are labels:

Jealous, mad, mean, playful, angry, aggressive, hormonal, sweet, loving, trusting, dominant, fearful, bad, nice, screamer, biter, skittish, etc.

Labels often get in the way of assessing behavior and developing plans to change a problem behavior.

Observing Behavior Vs. Labeling

Labeling behavior feeds our assumptions about why a behavior is happening, getting in the way of assessing problem behaviors. Labels oversimplify observable behaviors into **inaccurate**, broad statements about the bird and are not helpful for changing behavior. Let's look at some examples of turning labels into descriptions of behavior:

Labels:

My bird is a biter!
My bird is hormonal.
My bird is jealous.

Description of behavior:

My bird lunges at my partner.
My bird bites me when it sees my friend.

Labels:

My bird is a plucker.
My bird is lonely.
My bird is neurotic.

Description of behavior:

My bird plucks its feathers.
My bird chews its feathers.

Now, let's examine one commonly used label–hormonal–as an example of why labeling doesn't help us get to the bottom of problem behaviors!

Labeling: "My bird is hormonal."

Hormones tend to refer to reproductive behavior. A bird's behavior may be more volatile for those few weeks.

Too often biting or screaming are blamed on "hormones" no matter when they happen.

Blaming hormones makes the undesired behavior about something inside of the bird and leaves us helpless to change the behavior.

It's a mistake not to look at the actual behavior such as biting and not investigate what sets the stage for the behavior and what the feedback for biting or screaming may be.

More on reproductive behavior in a bit!

Defining Trust

We know trust is a label so we must ask what behaviors define trust? Susan Friedman Ph.D. (applied behavior) describes trust as:

> *A level of certainty that interaction will result in good outcomes, and so interaction increases. Trusting animals use their behavior to confidently approach, rather than escape, opportunities to interact with people. They not only accept invitations to interact with their trainers, trusting animals create interaction opportunities for their trainers as well.*

How can you earn trust?

- Learn what your bird enjoys—favorite foods, head scratches, singing, spray misting, etc.
- Observe body language and practice two-way communication.
- Respect choice—if your bird won’t step up, try again later.
- Always give a visual escape route—don’t block the cage doorway.
- Wait for calm, voluntary interaction—let your bird come to you.
- Allow quiet time and personal space—balance is key.
- Understanding body language takes time—be patient and consistent.

Body Language

What are we looking for?

Calm

- Relaxed feathers
- Preening
- Gently taking treats from hand
- Cockatoos: feathers over beak
- Calmly approaching you
- Wings in normal position
- Beak grinding

Not - calm

- Raised neck feathers
- Fanned tail feathers
- Eye pinning
- Raised crest feathers
- Lunging
- Grabbing treats from hand
- Open beak

Fear

- Wings held slightly away from body
- Slicked down feathers, held tight to body
- Eye pinning
- Looking around for escape/eyes darting around
- Tightened foot grip
- Leaning or moving away
- Lunging
- Open beak
- Panic vocalization

All behavior has a ***function...***

- ***Behavior is not alone.***
- Behavior is influenced by the environment, past experiences, and current conditions. These factors ***always*** set the stage for behavior to occur.
- We are often a prominent part of setting that stage. ***Every interaction is a teaching moment, no matter how big or small.***
- ALL behavior has a ***function!*** Parrots (and us) behave to get:
  1. More of/access to something they want, **or**
  2. Less of/farther away from something they do not want

Kenya lifts her foot to request a step up from a familiar caregiver!

Functional Assessment: the ABC's

Every behavior is preceded by events in that bird's environment, and immediately followed by some form of feedback. We break this down into the smallest unit of behavior–the ABC's:

A - Antecedents (sets the stage for behavior to happen)

B - Behavior (what the bird does-observable behavior)

C - Consequence (feedback immediately after, purpose)

Using these ABC's of behavior is called a ***functional assessment!***

Remember, 2/3 of every behavior is the environment or conditions surrounding the behavior. Thus, we have 2/3 of every behavior to work with!

If a behavior continues or increases, it is being **reinforced.**

If a behavior decreases, it is being **punished.**

Functional Assessment Example

The first step is to know the behavior of interest:

B. Lucy **bites** Jane's ear.

Once we write the behavior we can fill in the A (sets the stage) and the C (feedback/purpose).

Background: Lucy is a parrot and perches on Jane's shoulder.
A. Jane is talking on the phone.
B. Lucy **bites** at Jane's ear.
C. Jane gives head scritches.
Prediction:
Lucy will continue to bite Jane's ear to get head scritches.

Now Jane knows the ***function*** of Lucy's behavior in this situation! She can develop a plan to change the behavior from here.

Functional Assessment Template

FAs are the best tool to help us change an undesired behavior!

When writing an ABC, be sure to start with the B (behavior) slot. Then, fill in the environmental events that occurred the second before and after that behavior.

A._____
(what set the stage for the behavior likely to occur)

B._____
(**behavior**-what the bird did that is observable)

C._____
(what was the immediate feedback or purpose of the behavior)

Prediction: predict the future frequency of the behavior of interest

Building a Support Plan:

What sets the stage

Predictors of behavior

Desired behavior

Problem behavior

Replacement behavior

Consequence

Maintaining consequence

Antecedents

Behavior

Consequence

Recording Data

Data can be your best friend when it comes to working on a behavior change plan, even if the idea isn't initially appealing to you.

Recording data helps you know if you are making progress or not; it can be especially helpful if working with excessive screaming, as it can sometimes seem like you are not making progress when you actually are!

Data doesn't have to be complicated. Make it as easy as possible and you'll be glad you made the effort.

Simple behavior data you may find helpful to record:

- Time of day
- Duration (ie. of quiet time or of screaming)
- Number of successful repetitions of a desired behavior
- Check mark that a behavior occurred that day (ie. screaming for a long duration, or biting)

Positive or Negative Consequence

A consequence for our use is what strengthens or weakens a behavior in the future. Consequences occur immediately after a behavior, providing feedback to that behavior.

When talking about our feedback (consequence) to behavior, positive does not mean "good", nor does negative mean "bad". Instead, think of math class!

Positive (+) means we are **adding** something following a behavior.

Example:
Antecedent: You hold your bird up to a perch just inside its cage entrance.
Behavior: Bird steps into cage.
Consequence: The bird receives a small piece of favorite treat (***added***).

Negative (–) means we are **removing** something following a behavior.

Example:
Antecedent: It begins to rain.
Behavior: You run under a tree.
Consequence: Getting wet from the rain is avoided (***removed***).

Consequences for Behavior: 4 Quadrants

Positive (+):
something is added immediately after a behavior occurs.

Negative (-):
Something is removed immediately after a behavior occurs.

Reinforcement: A consequence that will increase or maintain the behavior in the future.

Punishment: A consequence that will decrease the behavior in the future.

Positive reinforcement (R+): A **reinforcer** is **added** immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior is **strengthened** and will **increase** in the future.	**Positive punishment (P+):** An **aversive** is received (**added**) immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will **decrease** in the future.
Negative reinforcement (R-): An **aversive** is **removed** immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will **increase** in the future.	**Negative punishment (P-):** A **reinforcer** is **removed** immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will **decrease** in the future.

Reinforcer*: something that causes the behavior to increase*
Aversive*: something the bird works to avoid or escape*

Positive Reinforcement (R+)

R+ Example:

A. Peggy requests Eddie to step up
B. Eddie steps onto hand
C. Peggy gives a millet seed

Prediction: Eddie will continue to step up to get a treat.

Definition Reminder:

Positive reinforcement (R+): Something desired is received (added) immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will continue.

Pssst... We will share lots of great ways to use positive reinforcement in the second part of the behavior and training BBB!

Negative Reinforcement (R–)

R– Example:

A. Joey puts "scary" towel behind Mackie (**aversive introduced**)
B. Mackie steps up onto hand
C. "Scary" towel is avoided (**aversive removed**)

Prediction: Mackie will continue to step up to avoid towel.

Definition Reminder:

Negative reinforcement (R-): An aversive is removed immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will continue.

R– involves the use of aversives (towel or pushy hand in these examples). Not recommended!

Example 2: Bird will step-up to remove pushy, rude hand from pressing on chest.

Positive Punishment (P+)

Known Possible Side Effects:

- Increased aggression
- Escape/avoidance behaviors
- Loss of trust
- Reduction in activity
- Feather destructive behavior

P+ should not be used but unfortunately it is used all too often. P+ comes with side effects and let's face it. **We can do better**!

Definition Reminder:

Positive punishment (P+): An aversive is added following a behavior, behavior will decrease

When P+ works, it reinforces the person delivering the P+, so it continues to be used. Intensity of the aversives used eventually needs to increase from what worked initially to remain effective. A slippery slope!

Some Examples of P+:

- Spraying bird with water (if bird doesn't like it)
- Thumping finger on bird's beak
- Shaking perching hand to make the bird unsteady

Negative Punishment (P–)

Another name for Negative Punishment can be a Time Out (TO) from positive reinforcement. **Time Outs are often done incorrectly**. To do a Time Out:

See "Plan Example 2: Lunging"

1. The function for the behavior needs to be known.
2. It will only work if you know and have control of the bird's reinforcers so they can be immediately withdrawn.
3. Removal of reinforcers must **immediately** follow the behavior–the very second after the behavior occurs.
4. It should only last a few seconds. For a parrot perhaps 10 seconds at the most; let the TO do the work.
5. Return parrot to the scene of the crime to do the desired behavior and receive positive reinforcement.

Definition Reminder:

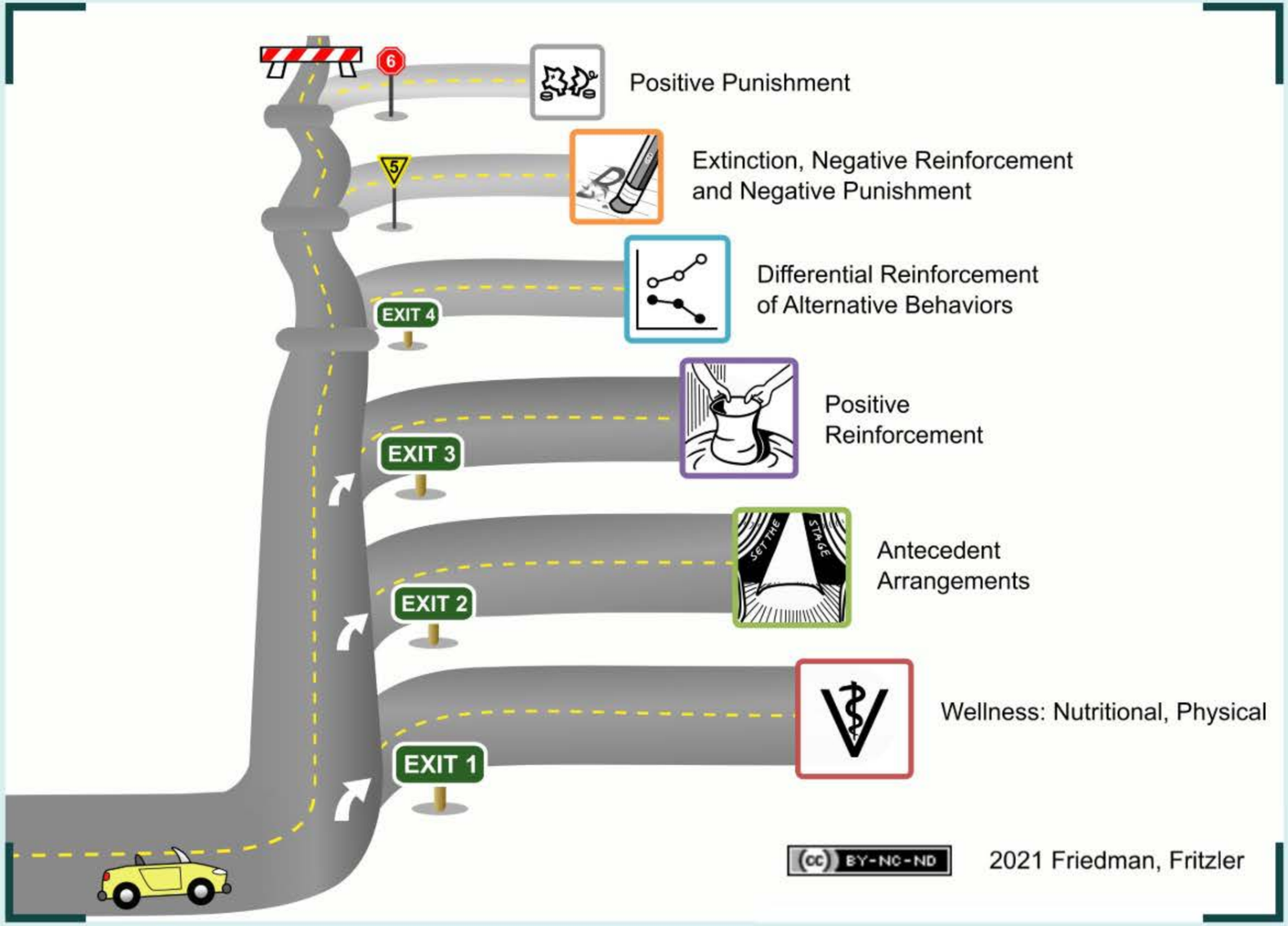
Negative punishment (P-): A reinforcer is removed immediately following a behavior, thus the behavior will not continue in the future.

Notice, "Time Out" does NOT simply mean putting your bird in the cage for a period of time to punish a behavior.

What tools should we use?

- A sudden change in behavior may require a veterinary visit to rule out illness.
- We should always be thinking how best set a parrot up to succeed. **The best choices are changing the environment for success (antecedent rearrangement) and using positive reinforcement.**
- Time Out (negative punishment), if done correctly, and only if needed. Putting a bird in its cage is not a time out! But it can be a cooling off period.
- **Positive punishment and negative reinforcement both involve the use of aversives. They should be avoided** unless working with a certified behavior consultant educated in ABA (applied behavior analysis) who has used careful consideration for using any aversives only after other less intrusive plans have failed.
- If more help is needed or a problem behavior hasn't changed in a short time, then ***consider contacting The Gabriel Foundation for assistance***.

Hierarchy of Behavior-Change Procedures
Most Positive, Least Intrusive Effective Intervention



Most Intrusive

Least Intrusive

Avoid "Not" Behaviors

"Not" behaviors are not behavior... such as not screaming, or not lunging. They are **not helpful** when building a training support plan.

If a bird is doing an undesired behavior always consider what behavior your bird ***could*** do instead to receive the same or similar outcome.

Instead if a bird is lunging perhaps it could learn to go to a designated perch, depending on the circumstances. A screaming bird could whistle instead to get attention! **Think in terms of active behavior rather than "not" doing something.**

Antecedent Arrangement

With thoughtful planning we can set an environment, our homes up in a way for birds to succeed and not see or rarely see undesired behaviors.

We can do this with careful antecedent arrangement (what comes before the a behavior that signals the behavior to happen).

Ask yourself: What might you change so a behavior is less likely to occur?

Differential Reinforcement
of an alternative or incompatible behavior:

Background: Paco is screaming excessively. Sandra tried to ignore it, but the screaming becomes worse due to occasional reinforcement (Sandra finally goes to Paco and says "no". Ignoring screaming alone almost NEVER works.

First step: Figure out the **function** of the screaming...
Often, Sandra gives some kind of attention to Paco when he screams. She goes to Paco, saying "no," being in sight. We know it's reinforced because the screaming continues.

Consider what Paco could do instead (incompatible behavior) to get the same or similar feedback (attention).

Differential Reinforcement
of an alternative or incompatible behavior:

Paco already knows how to say "hello!"
This is an incompatible behavior; he cannot say hello and scream at the same time.

Every time the Paco says "hello," Sandra immediately gives attention (R+) and a small treat (R+). Meanwhile, Sandra completely ignores any time Paco screams.

The reinforced behavior, "hello", will increase.

The ignored behavior, screaming, will decrease.

Paco learns how to receive his desired feedback (attention from Sandra). See how just wanting Paco "not to scream" wouldn't have helped Sandra develop a plan?

Plan Example 1: Lunging

***Lunging* is when a bird charges at someone to move the person away and it threatens to bite.**
Sally needs help because Abby has been lunging at her:

A. Sally changes cage food bowls
B. Abby lunges at the cage bars towards Sally
C. Sally walks away
P. Abby will continue to lunge to get Sally to move away

Sally now knows what sets the stage and the purpose for the lunging behavior. **She can now work on changing the environmental events.**

Sally approaches the cage and drops treat in food bowl. She repeats that several times. The goal is to see Abby display calm behavior... →

A. Sally goes to change bowls and gives Abby a treat
B. Abby perches calmly while eating the treat
C. Sally changes out the bowls and gives another treat

A. Sally changes food bowls
B. Abby perches calmly
C. Sally puts treat in bowl
P. Abby will continue to perch calmly while food bowls are changed

Plan Example 2: Lunging (P–)

A more intrusive method could be the following that should not be the first option.

A. Sally starts to put the food bowls into the cage
B. Abby lunges at the cage bowls
C. Sally immediately removes/lowers the bowls (time out) for 3 seconds
P. Lunging will decrease

Sally hasn't moved away, after counting silently to 3.

A. Sally starts to put food bowls in again
B. Abby remains perched
C. Food in bowls and treat is given
P. Abby will continue perching while bowls are put into cage to get a treat

Biting

*Biting is **communication** that occurs if we miss body language cues or ignore them. Biting is most often the last resort for a bird to say "no."*

Biting never happens for no reason. We know that all behavior has a purpose.

Parrot body language can be very subtle so it's important to pay close attention not only to the parrot but also the surroundings, current activities, time of day, overall mood a parrot might have displayed during the day or even the last hour.

If a bite occurs, stay calm, say a quick "ouch" if you like and gently put the parrot into its cage or leave them on the perch. Give the parrot time to reset and you too!

Consider what was going on prior to any bite, what set the stage?

Most importantly is that a parrot not continue to bite.

Systematic Desensitization

Systemic desensitization is a procedure to help teach a parrot to tolerate something that was previously an aversive or scary.

The first step is to know what a bird is not comfortable with. The bird has been showing ***escape behaviors*** such as:

- **Dropping to the bottom of the cage**
- **Thrashing about**
- **Lunging**
- **Flying away**
- **Leaning away**
- **Panic vocalization**

Systematic Desensitization

What a bird is afraid of may be an object or a person.

Find out at what distance the bird can see the object and continue to display comfortable behavior.

Gradually move the object closer to the bird, only as close as the bird continues to be comfortable. ***Any sign of fear should not be displayed by the bird when using this procedure.***

Once the object is close enough, work on the bird approaching the object. Be sure to reinforce that approach. Example: If the bird takes 3 steps, reinforce it, say "good", then treat and then have it go back to where it started. Ask the bird to approach again, this time it takes 3 or maybe 5 steps, then repeat. Continue until it approaches the object comfortably.

Counter Conditioning (CC)

Counter Conditioning is used to undo the adverse effects of an earlier experience, *replacing a fear response with a pleasant one.*

Example: A bird is either lunging at cage bars when person approaches or perhaps a bird is running to the other side.

Person approaches the bird (usually in cage) without talking or looking at the bird, drops a piece of a very favorite treat into the food bowl, and walks away–***putting absolutely no pressure on the bird.***

This is repeated as often as that person is available, until the bird begins to look forward to the person's approach, starting to walk to the food bowl as the person approaches. Eventually, the person starts to hand the treat through the cage bars for the bird to take. The bird may grab a time or two but will change to taking treat gently as **confidence builds**.




Other Common Problem Behaviors & Behavior Myths

Reproductive Behavior:
What Does It Look Like?

- Seeking out dark, nesty areas; nest building
- Spending time chicken scratching in a cage corner or box
- Increased wood chewing
- Increased or sudden clinginess
- Panting/ecstatic shaking
- Regurgitating
- Filling crop with excess water then regurgitating
- Increased screaming over a certain time of year
- More volatile behavior for a few weeks (breeding season)
- Egg laying in females

Egg Laying

Female birds (hens) can lay eggs if living alone or only with other females; they do not need a male bird present to lay.

When conditions are good (safe environment, good & plentiful food) egg laying may occur occasionally and be considered normal. *It does not indicate a desire to breed.*

What is normal depends on the bird species. Small birds tend to lay more eggs at a time (4-6 eggs, sometimes up to 8!) than larger parrots (1-3 eggs).

DO NOT remove eggs if the bird is showing interest in the eggs. Removing eggs prematurely can result in a bird laying more eggs to replace them. Leave the eggs with the bird, up to 30 or so days, until your bird loses interest.

The Gabriel Foundation recommendations the use of dummy eggs: ***dummyeggs.com***

Do not give calcium supplementation unless a veterinarian advises it. Cuttlebone can be offered as free choice.

Chronic or Excessive Egg laying

- Excessive egg laying is when a parrot lays several eggs and continues to lay eggs. This becomes a health issue.

- Steps to stop chronic egg laying:
  1. Discourage excessive egg laying/reproductive activity by limiting access to boxes, other dark or nesty areas, and preferred nest building materials.
  2. Reduce or eliminate stroking and excessive cuddling, which can also stimulate reproductive behavior.
  3. Provide a balanced diet appropriate for the species.
  4. Encourage and provide opportunity for as much physical activity as possible, including foraging, playing, training, etc.
  5. Get your bird safely outside for natural (supervised) sunshine exposure.

Our Role in Reproductive Behavior

Always consider the environment and how you interact with your bird, male or female.

Petting and stroking are behaviors we as caretakers enjoy and teach birds to tolerate.

These are not natural behaviors for our birds and generally stimulate sexual behavior for male and female birds.

Video showing ecstatic shaking

Does your bird have independent activities or does it rely on you? The best relationships are when a bird is independent. Consider training time, foraging opportunities, games, dancing, and bathing as some of the opportunities to enjoy with our birds.

Cuddling

How affection can become problematic

Some species, like cockatoos, tend to tolerate and may even appear to solicit cuddling!

*Cuddling is an unnatural and **learned** behavior that can have major consequences for our birds when done in excess.*

"I thought we could pet our birds on the head and neck? Does this mean I can't pet my bird?"

Well, we have to take the individual bird into consideration when asking this question!

If your bird elicits some cuddling, keep it short (1-2 minutes) and then engage your bird in some other activity!

Some birds become overstimulated even when touched in "safe-zones."

Cuddling

How affection can become problematic

Many female cockatoos can become overly stimulated, especially at certain times, when touched on the so called safe zone (shown in pink). Some females may even start to quiver when looked at or talked to.

Some male cockatoos will masturbate (rubbing tail on an object). This should be avoided and could lead to cloacal prolapse for some. If you observe your bird masturbating, gently place the bird on a perch or distract your bird (e.g. taking a walk, playing a game, singing, etc.

There are many behavioral issues associated with excessive petting and cuddling:

- *biting,*
- *screaming,*
- *feather plucking,*
- *cloacal prolapse,*
- *a bird not knowing how to interact with the environment such as foraging and playing with toys*
- *being too dependent on a person*

Parrots are active creatures and boredom + over reliance on their caretaker can easily become an issue. ***This is why it is essential to teach your bird to be independent!***

Feather Destructive Behavior

Feather destructive behavior includes:

Feather barbering: *Chewing of fraying feathers without removing them*

Feather plucking: *pulling out feathers entirely*

Excessive preening: *over-grooming that damages feathers*

Feather biting: *chewing off feathers at the shaft*

Some birds may direct FDB towards a cage mate, especially in closely bonded pairs.

Feather destructive behavior (FDB) is a complex and often chronic behavior that can be challenging to manage.

Determining the exact cause can be difficult, and a complete solution may not be found, though improvement is sometimes possible!

Fulled formed feathers and blood feathers that have been plucked.

Feather Destructive Behavior

One of the complexities of FDB is that it is often driven by a combination of factors, which can include but are not limited to:

- ***Hormonal or reproductive triggers***
- ***Learned or reinforced behavioral patterns***
- ***Boredom or lack of enrichment***
- ***Lack of social interaction***
- ***Poor diet or lack of appropriate nutrition***
- ***Underlying medical issue***

All aspects of your bird's health should be evaluated by an avian veterinarian.

So, what can we do?

- *Improving your bird's diet*
- *Providing more enrichment and activities*
- *Offering frequent showers if the bird enjoys/accepts them*
- *If a medical cause is found, providing appropriate treatment*

Self - Mutilation 

Self-mutilation is **not** the same as feather destructive behavior. It involves the bird creating open wounds on itself using:

- its beak
- overgrown or sharp toenails
- sharp cage objects or accessories

Common mutilation sites include the chest, thighs, and under the wings. However, mutilation can occur almost anywhere on the body.

This is considered a medical emergency and requires immediate veterinary and behavioral intervention.

Causes may include:

Pain or neurological issues

Underlying illness

As avian medicine improves, we learn more about the potential causes of self-mutilation

Myths

Looking at some common misconceptions

An old bird can't learn new tricks!

All of us, even birds, continue to learn every day, with every interaction and continue to learn as we age!

When it comes to teaching new behaviors, any bird can learn to learn. How quickly they catch on will depend on the individual bird but also on the trainer/teacher.

Myths

Looking at some common misconceptions

Rehomed parrots come with baggage.

It's true that we all, including parrots, have a learning history.

Does that mean a parrot that the reason a parrot is biting or screaming in a new home is due to the previous home? Perhaps somewhat BUT the present environment always has the most influence on current behavior. So rather than blame a previous home, take a good look at what might be evoking the behavior in your home and see what you might change to help set your parrot up to succeed.

Myths

Looking at some common misconceptions

> ***My bird won't step up when they are on top of their cage because they are displaying height dominance.***

As prey animals, most parrots prefer being up high as this offers the best view of their surroundings.

If a parrot won't step up it's not because they are being dominant but that they either don't want to step up or in many cases the hand/perch you are offering doesn't appear stable.

If need be step onto a stool or steady chair and then request step-up. Don't forget to always reinforce that and any other requested behavior!

Remember, "Dominance" and "height dominance" are both labels!

Myths

Looking at some common misconceptions

> ***Living with a parrot means you are going to be bitten regularly.***

Would we say the same thing about living with a cat or dog?

All parrots are capable of biting and we should be respectful of their beak.

*If your parrot bites it's telling you something. It can be puzzling sometimes to know why a parrot bit but there is always a reason. Biting is a last resort communication for the parrot to say "no", **AFTER** you missed all other signals. e.g. continually pushing your parrot such as demanding it step up no matter what.*

Pay close attention to body language, know that it's very subtle, even a slight change in the eye or feather position.

Myths

Looking at some common misconceptions

> ***You should give your bird supplemental calcium after laying an egg.***

Calcium should NEVER be supplemented unless it's prescribed to do so by your bird's veterinarian.

If your bird is eating the recommended amount of a professionally formulated diet, calcium supplementation should not be required for what is considered normal or occasional egg laying. .

Excess calcium could cause kidney disease and has been linked to an increased risk of developing atherosclerosis.

Interesting fact!

In general, supplemental calcium has little effect on egg shell quality and strength as egg laying persists.

Finding help... What do those letters mean?

CPBC-Certified Parrot Behavior Consultant: Minimum of 4 years and 500 hours of consulting. At least 400 hours coursework, seminars, mentorship and other education in core competencies. Knowledge of learning theory, counter conditioning, desensitization, training and husbandry with in-depth knowledge of assessment skills and species-specific knowledge. Letters of reference and case studies. This is through IAABC (International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants).

KPA-CTP: Complete comprehensive training program using positive reinforcement and science-based behavior. Mentorship and coursework required. Most are dog trainers, but all are skilled and those with parrot experience can be excellent resources for parrot training and behavior help. This is through Karen Pryor Academy.

IATBC-KA: Designed for professional bird trainers with at least 3 years of experience. Pass a 200 multiple choice question exam. There is a loophole. Although most with this certification are professional trainers, a few may not have the years or type of experience one might expect. For consultations, look for IATC-KA certification combined with one of the above certifications.

All of the above require proof of continued learning to keep a person's certification. Memberships can be looked up to see if a person is current.

Suggested Resources

https://journal.iaabcfoundation.org/petting-and-stroking-parrots/

https://behaviorworks.org/htm/articles_behavior_change.html

https://naturalencounters.com/papers/

https://behaviorworks.org/index.html

https://dummyeggs.com/

Books:

Don't Shoot the Dog by Karen Pryor

Learning and Behavior by Paul Chance

Clicker Training for Birds by Melinda Johnson

Woohoo!

That's the end of our essentials in parrot behavior presentation! We hope you enjoyed dipping your piggies into the world of behavior.

Next, we will be talking more about parrot training concepts! Navigate to the next presentation to get started!