



*“Parrots: Their Lives... Our Choice”*

### Recommending Other Parrot Welfare Organizations: Important Considerations

1. Remember, a bird is totally dependent upon its human caretakers for its well-being. Any decision, whether positive or negative that is made, will impact the bird’s future. The decision that is made regarding disposition of the bird (whether to shelter, adoptive or foster home, Craigslist, for sale ad, veterinarian or PWO) is a decision that will affect the remainder of that individual bird’s life. We provide this information to you so that you can make an informed decision before placing your parrot with any PWO or alternative source. Remember, love is not enough.
2. TGF **ALWAYS** recommends that **ANY** facility be personally checked out by you before placing a bird with them.
3. Ask for references from the PWO’s veterinarian, volunteers, staff, adopters or persons who have relinquished a bird to them.
4. Request copies of the intake form, adoption form, other written materials, Standards of Care and quarantine policies observed by the PWO. Is the Mission and Purpose of the PWO readily available?
5. **ALWAYS** base your placement decision upon your observations after visiting with PWO staff, observing the birds, and the human/bird interaction. If you have a strong “gut” feeling, heed it!
6. Visit the POW’s Website; learn about their education outreach, programs and support provided to inquirers, adopters, relinquishers, volunteers, supporters or members.
7. How does the PWO generate income?
8. What programs does the PWO operate?
9. Is the Mission and Purpose of the PWO readily available?
10. Ask for the PWO’s IRS status: Tax-exempt or not? If the organization is a 501(c)(3), visit [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) and check out the organization’s information. They should file either a Form 990 or 990EZ and that information should be posted. If the PWO is not tax-exempt, that is not necessarily a problem – but if you want your donations to be tax-deductible, the organization must be a public charity.
11. Inquire about their succession plan, the Board of Directors, veterinarians, staff and/or volunteers. You may request a copy of the organization’s IRS Form 1023..
12. What is the staff to bird ratio?
13. What is the incoming bird veterinary medical protocol?



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- a. What laboratory testing is required?
  - b. Who pays for this testing?
  - c. Is there a supportive veterinarian(s) with a special interest in avian medicine?
14. What is the PWO's quarantine procedure? Where, how often, and for what length of time are birds in quarantine?
15. What husbandry protocols does the PWO have regarding:
- a. Housing and caging
    - i. Indoor
    - ii. Outdoor
  - b. Enrichment
  - c. Diet
  - d. Activities
  - e. Visitors
  - f. Relinquishments
  - g. Adoptions
  - h. Routine veterinary care
  - i. Rehabilitation
  - j. Continuing education
  - k. Sanctuary
  - l. Returning your bird(s) to you if requested

When placing your bird with any PWO, rescue or sanctuary, you may be requested to provide a surrender donation on behalf of your bird(s). You are asking another person or organization to take responsibility for the lifetime care of your bird(s). This is a significant commitment and responsibility for any person or shelter.