**ABOUT BOARDING YOUR BIRD(S) AT THE GABRIEL FOUNDATION**

Thanks for contacting us about the possibility of boarding your bird(s) with The Gabriel Foundation. Boarding birds have a separate area at either of the TGF locations, and each bird is provided its own cage, unless your birds are specifically housed together at your home. Birds generally respond quite well to the company of other birds, especially if there’s a familiar species’ vocalization for them. It’s not uncommon for a companion parrot to display that it wants to be with other people or even other birds. Boarding birds are offered the opportunity to have rotating out of cage time, and are supervised when out of their cage. Some owners request that their birds have aviary outdoor time during good weather, and boarding birds are rotated in/out of their outdoor flights. We would never place a bird in a situation where the bird size difference was a danger to another bird unless those birds are specifically bonded to each other and we have written owner documentation that those birds are accustomed to spending close physical time with each other.

We request some diagnostic testing for boarding birds which is the same as the intake medical protocol for all TGF birds. We require testing for *Chlamydia psittaci*, a current CBC if the previous results are more than 2 years old, and when available, applicable vet records. If your bird has never been to a veterinarian with a special interest in avian medicine, or you request a referral, we are able to provide you resource information throughout the U.S. Depending upon the age, species and history of your bird, or upon TGF veterinary recommendation, additional diagnostics may be required.

We can provide bird transport to/from our Denver and Elizabeth locations. The transport fee is $25/each way. The upside of boarding with TGF is that we know birds, and our care and husbandry standard is excellent. We believe that it is beneficial for birds to have the opportunity to be safely with other birds and to learn to be comfortable and trusting of people who respect the bird and its choices. We feed 2x/day, with a legume/grain veggie mash in the AM. In the PM, birds receive their dry mix, Nutriberries, some pellets, nuts (appropriate to species and NEVER any peanuts), with mixed fresh greens, veggies, sprouts and a small amount of fruit salad that we prepare for our birds. Birds are bathed regularly, and we offer grooming services at an additional charge for nails, wings and if overgrown, beaks. Birds are weighed at intake and prior to exit. All cages have foraging and enrichment materials to provide the bird with things to do during its stay. If your bird has a favorite toy or treat, we encourage you to bring it when your bird boards at TGF.

This brief introduction provides you a reasonable idea of how boarding birds spend their days at TGF, and what you can expect from us. We offer discounted rates for short and long term or frequent boarders to members who purchase an annual Boarding and Grooming Services Membership for an annual fee of $150.00 renewable the 1st day of the 1st month of the following year, or upon subsequent boarding requests. We also offer discounts for the first, 2nd and 3rd or multiple birds and for birds that share a cage. You will be asked to complete a boarding or long term boarding contract plus a designation of beneficiary for your bird during its stay with us. If you have other questions for us about boarding your bird, don’t hesitate to contact us. Thank you.

Jessica Boone

Boarding and Intake Coordinator

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