

PARROT EDUCATION & ADOPTION CENTER®

- Dedicated to teaching current and potential bird owners proper physical & psychological care for pet birds
- Unwanted & found parrots are accepted by PEAC and are adopted to qualified applicants



www.peac.org

(619) 287-8200
parroted@peac.org

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- Please sign in
- Adoption procedures
 - Required seminars
 - Adoption application
 - Home visit
 - Adoption Committee



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3 seminars required if interested in adopting a bird. Attendance is tracked using the sign in sheets.

After attending 3 seminars, adoption application is mailed, then forwarded to Adoption Committee.

Home visit is required before placing a bird.

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- Volunteering at PEAC
 - Minimum seminar attendance
 - Volunteer application
 - Orientation
 - Fostering birds
- PEAC is a 501(c) non-profit organization



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If interested in volunteering, attendance at seminars is tracked via sign-in sheets.

After attending the basic 3 seminars, volunteer application is mailed.

Attend volunteer orientation and are now a “volunteer-in-training”.

Continue to attend all available PEAC seminars; assigned duties are at the discretion of the Leadership Team during the training period.

All donations to PEAC are tax-deductible.

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On with the show!!!



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How Do Wild Parrots Spend Their Day?

- wild parrots forage 4-6+ hours/day
 - survival skill
 - stimulation
 - socialization



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A Day in the Life...

- wild parrots
 - fly to feeding areas (up to 20 miles/day)
 - search for food for several hours
 - have a screamfest with flock mates
 - fly to suitable roosting tree for PM nap
 - search for food late afternoon
 - fly to evening roosting tree
 - sleep 10-12 hours



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Compared with ...

- Walk two feet to food bowl
- Eat your fill in less than 20 minutes
- Walk three feet to water bowl, then back to favorite perch
- Perch for 2-4 hours
- Beat up a toy for 15 minutes
- Nap for 2 hours
- Walk back to food bowl - eat for 20 min.
- Walk two feet back to perch
- Get moved to playgym or human's lap - interact quietly 2-4 hrs
- Sleep 8-10 hours



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Poor health and nutrition can also contribute to behavioral problems as your bird may not feel its best.

The point is this would be an extremely tedious existence for such an intelligent being.



So What's the Point?

Highly intelligent, active, social creatures

Overweight, feather-plucked parrots are
few in number in the wild

Everyone needs a job!



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Introducing Foraging

Learned behavior

- baby parrots spend months to several years with parents learning survival skills



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Teaching Foraging Behavior

- Make it a game
- Keep things easy until your bird catches onto the game
- Show your bird where you're hiding food initially
- Gradually increase the difficulty



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Creating Incentive

- Determine a favorite food
- Eliminate this food from the food bowl
- Start slow and easy
- Advance at your parrot's pace



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"Basic" Enrichment

- Hide the favorite food in something easy to tear apart
 - Crumpled in a piece of paper
 - Stuffed into a softer food
 - Wadded into a paper cup
 - Wrapped in cornhusk (tamale wrapper)
 - Clipped to side of cage



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More Enrichment Ideas

- Pile (washable) toys on top of food
- Clip whole foods to cage
 - Whole peppers
 - large leaves (greens)
 - Carrot tops, beet greens
- Hide pellets or a bird treat inside toys
- Puzzle toys



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Washable toys include large hard plastic beads (too large to swallow), acrylic foot toys, etc.

More Easy Ideas

- Cover bowl with paper
- Add washable toys on top of food
- Add more food cups to cage; rotate food location
- Crumple paper around a treat



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Foraging Toys

- Commercially available



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**Peach-faced
Lovebird on a
Treat Cage with Toys.**

Quacker Jack Pizza











Rather than filling every hole with a treat, consider wrapping 1 or 2 treats with paper. Stuff remaining holes with an empty wad of paper. Random rewards will keep the game more exciting for your bird, encourage curiosity and avoid excessive intake of treats.



**Mini Munch Balls
and Vine Rings**

Fiesta Ball Stuffers



Slices of luffa body scrubber – commonly available in many stores.



This toy can easily be made more challenging by including only 1 or 2 treats mixed with wooden or plastic beads.





Almond sticks – again too many treats although these are very easy to make.
1 ½" x 1 ½" pine or douglas fir strips from a lumber store and drill ONE hole.
¾" spade bit for almonds, ½" spade bit for pistachios in shell





Using foraging toys can help encourage parrots to explore and use swings which really help increase physical activity, balance and coordination

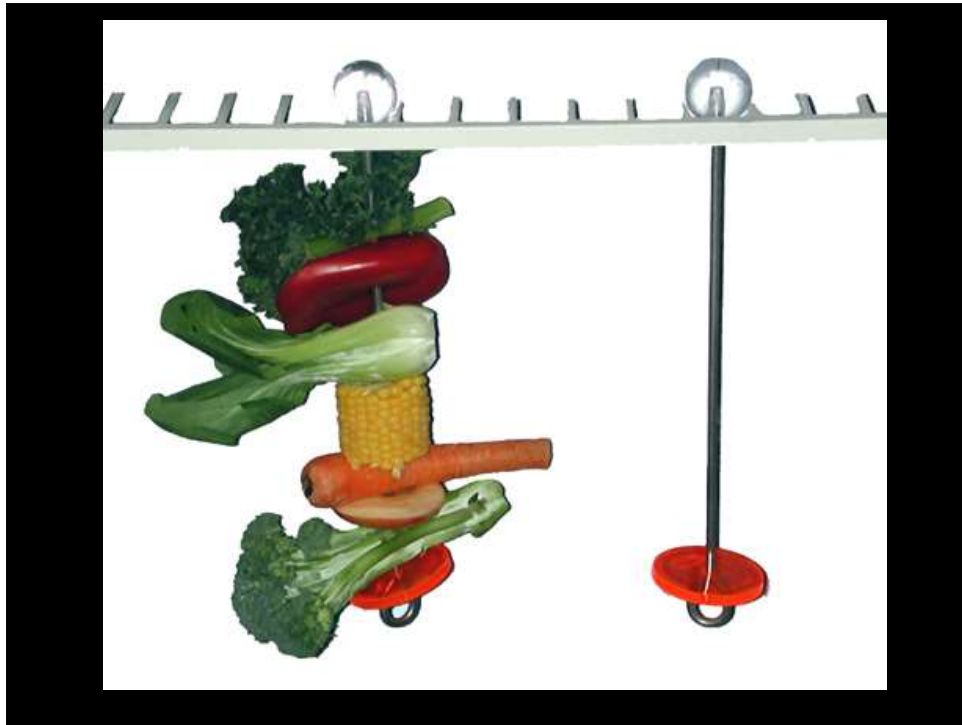
Foraging Toys

- Easy ways to make your own
- Paper cups
- Paper bags
- Popsicle sticks
- Pebbles (clean, appropriate size)
- Cardboard boxes



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Reuse hardware with screw eye from an almond stick. Show your bird their favorite treat is going inside and help teach them to eat vegetables.







A variety of vegetables lend themselves to use as foraging toys



Hole in zucchini squash made with an apple corer.





Joey, a DYA, knows this game!









The paper is secured with a strip of vegetable tanned leather (regular leather is not safe for parrots due to use of formaldehyde in the tanning process)



Clean branches make an excellent foraging experience



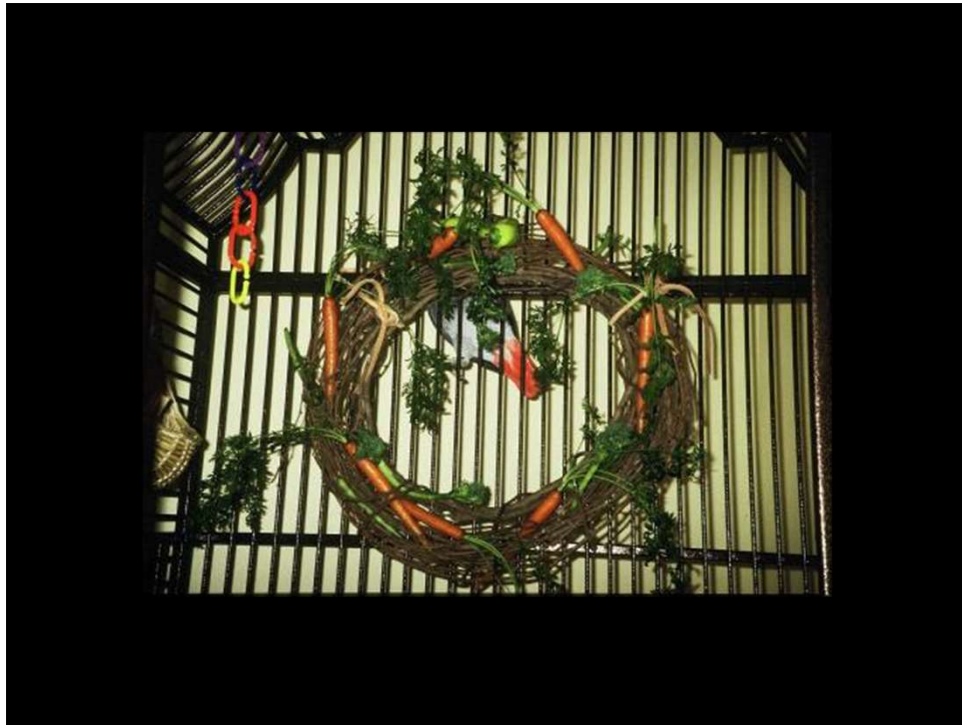




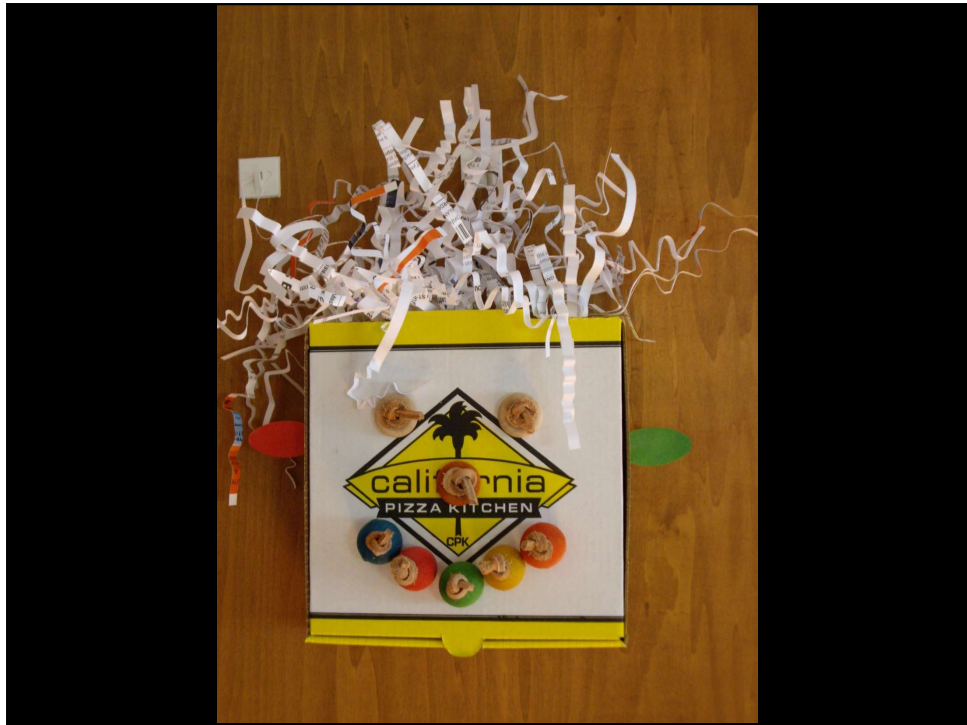
Cardboard egg cartons are another wonderful foraging device



Wicker baskets should have no lacquer, paint, metal staples or wire



A simple grapevine wreath stuffed with carrots including the tops

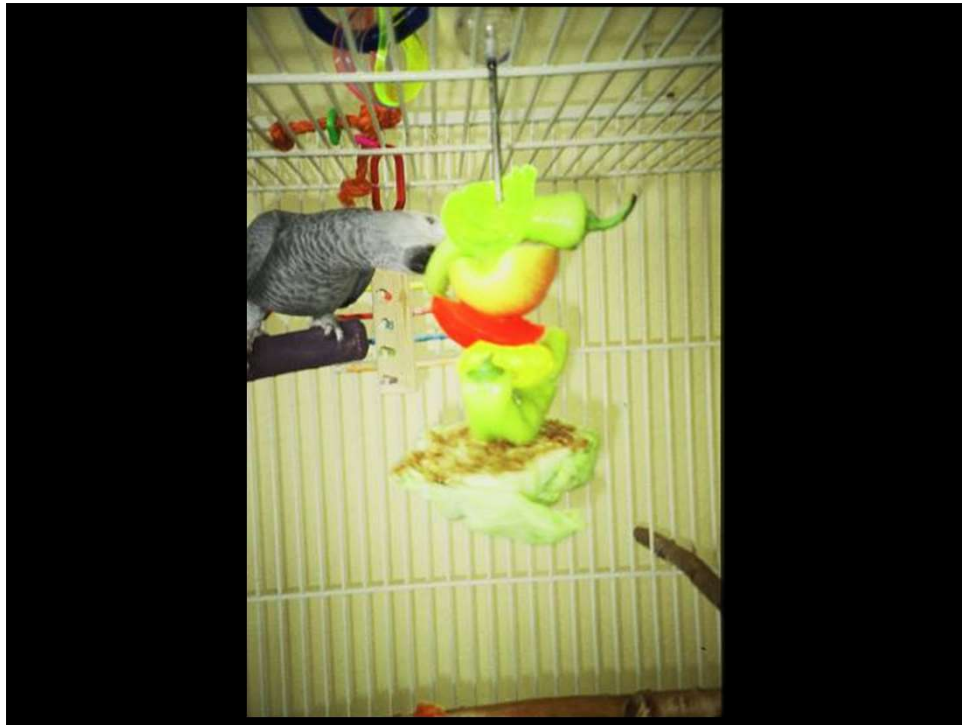




Grapevine wreath, vine ball, wooden spoon, all stuffed with palm frond and tamale wrappers



Make sure the box isn't large enough to be a "nest"!





Advanced Foraging

- Foraging tree
- More challenging toys
- Clean, safe vegetation from your yard
- Advanced foraging - "randomness"



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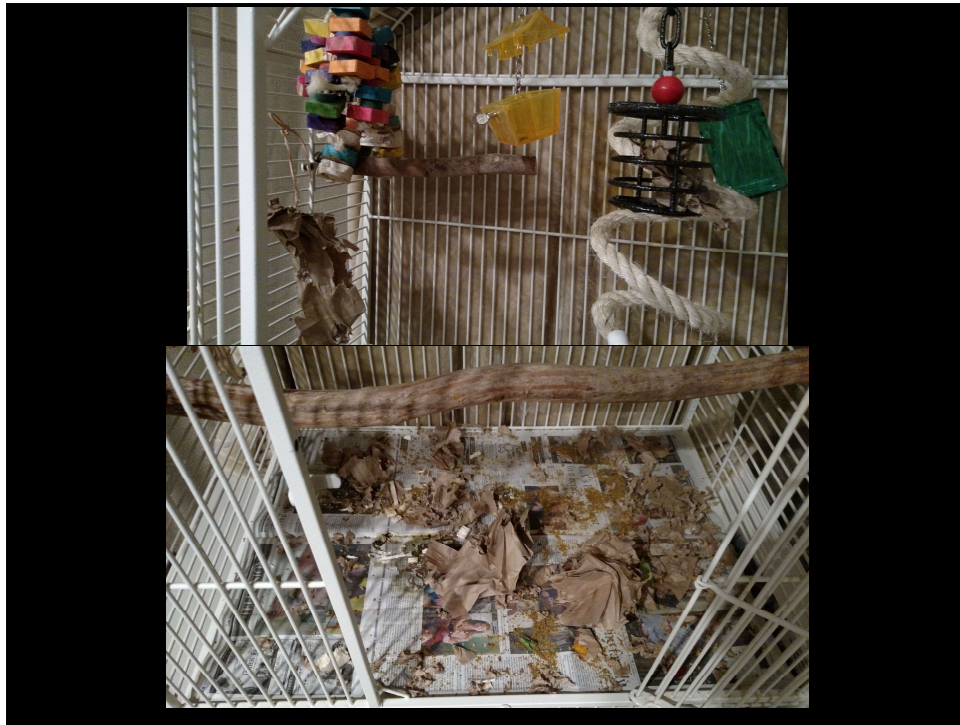


Many cockatoos and Greys enjoy advanced puzzle toys like these. Be certain wing nuts either can't come off, or are too large to be swallowed!





Diva, a Congo Grey, is an advanced forager. Note the various foraging toys in her enclosure; no pellet food bowl for her!!!



And she has a ton of fun with discovery each day!

Environmental Enrichment

- Encourages curiosity
- Enhances ability to deal with change
- Alleviates boredom
- Increases activity level
- Decreases abnormal/unwanted behavior



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Environmental Enrichment

- Using vegetation in your bird's environment:
 - Use safe types of vegetation
 - Choose those not sprayed with pesticides
 - Clean and sanitize (10% bleach, rinse, dry in sun)



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Safe vegetation

- Acacia, almond, apple, crabapple, citrus
- Bamboo
- Cottonwood, poplar
- Elm, eucalyptus
- Grapewood
- Maple, sycamore
- Mulberry
- Pine, fir
- Palm fronds (all types)
- Salvia (aka sage)



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No pesticides or previously sprayed items please.

Unsafe Vegetation

- Apricot and other stone fruits
- Box Elder
- Chinese Popcorn
- Chinese snake tree
- Chinese Tallow
- Hemlock
- Holly
- Laurel
- Oleander
- Pitch pine
- Redwood
- Sumac (Rhus/Toxicodendron)
- Yew



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Additional Resources

- "Captive Foraging" by Scott Echols, DVM
- Parrot Toys & Play Areas by D'Arezzo & Shannon-Nunn
- www.birdsjustwannahavefun.com
- Bird watching
- Children's toys
- Use Your Imagination!



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Observe what wild birds do for ideas

Summary

- Foraging in the wild
- Environmental Enrichment
- Teaching your bird to forage
- Beginner through advanced techniques

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