

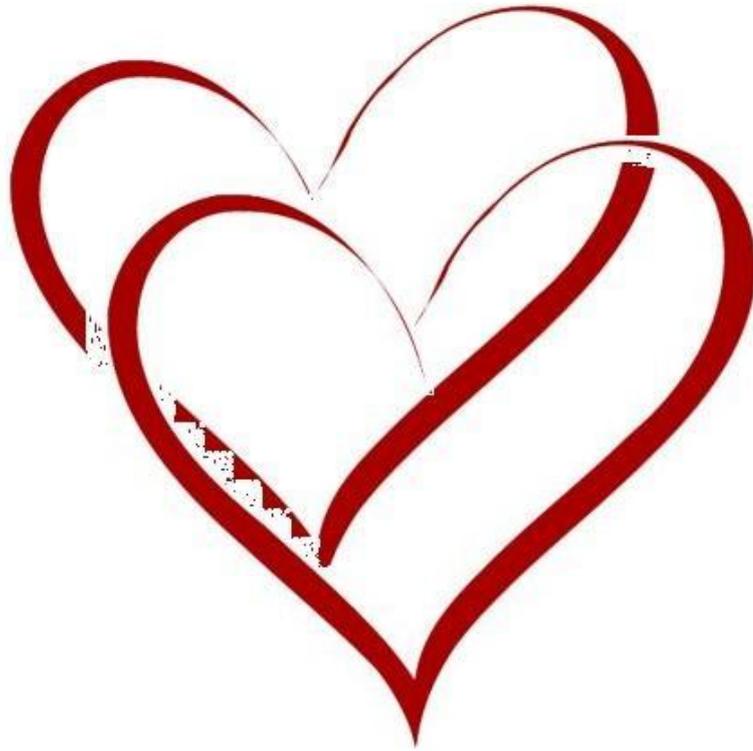
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Welcome to Birdline UK LTD Parrot Rescue



**We have put this welcome pack
together to help you with advice on
caring for a bird**

These are guidelines for Birdline UK LTD members only.
If you have any questions, please contact your Area Co-ordinator.



**In loving memory of Doddie Kent 7/4/1945 – 28/9/2017
Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure.
You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure.**

This pack was produced by Doddie Kent and Melinda Laws on behalf of Birdline UK LTD.

The information provided in this pack is designed to provide helpful information in the care and wellbeing of psittacines. This information is not meant to be used, nor should it be used to treat any medical condition. For diagnosis and/or treatment of any medical problem, ALWAYS consult an Avian Veterinarian. Birdline UK Parrot Rescue accepts no responsibility or liability for any damages or consequences from any treatment or actions to any animal/person following the guidance within this manual. References are provided for information only and do not constitute endorsement of any websites etc.

Disclaimer:

The information contained within this guidance is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. All recommendations are made without guarantee on behalf of Birdlike UK Parrot Rescue.



BIRDLINE PARROT RESCUE

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6: WHAT TO DO IF YOUR BIRD ESCAPES

This is a list of useful information we have compiled to help you if you lose your parrot.

6.1: As your bird is flying away

- Call to your bird loudly, as he is flying – it may help him find his way back to you. Try to use noises/sounds/words that he knows.
- As he is flying, don't take your eyes off him. Note the last place you saw him, the level of his flight, how tired he looked. He may have landed in that area. (Radio or phone contact for a group of people searching can be very helpful in this situation. Grab your mobile phone!
- Check for strong winds which may have pushed your bird in one direction, and note this down too.

6.2: Searching around your local area

- Contact a group of local people to help if possible, spread out and circle the area you last saw him.
- Ask everyone you see/can think of to spread the word. Dog walkers, people who deliver catalogues, neighbours who walk to work, children who walk to school, paper delivery people, postmen/women.
- Talk to aviary owners in the area, the sound of their birds may appeal to yours, and they may pay a visit.
- If you are in the country, talk/call local farms and ask them to keep an eye out.
- If you can't see him, call to him. He may call back. Say words he knows or mimics. Most parrots are located by their screams!
- Listen at dawn, when birds are most vocal – until it's light enough to search for food.
- If you have another bird he likes, put that bird in a travel cage and bring it to the area he was last seen. Walk away from the bird in the travel cage. It might encourage it to scream/call.
- This may inspire the lost bird to scream/call back. Keep talking to a minimum so you can listen for the scream.
- Look carefully in a limited area (within 1 mile) in the early stages of your search. Parrots usually don't go far unless blown by the wind, chased by a bird of prey, or extremely frightened.
- Keep in mind your parrot may see you before you see him. When this happens, parrots are sometimes very quiet. This may be because the parrot is more comfortable now that you are present.
- Despite some parrots bright colours, they can be very difficult to see in trees. Look for movement buried in the trees as opposed to your whole bird perched prominently on a branch.



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6.3: If you have located the bird, but he's out of reach

- Once you locate your bird, **try to relax**. It is better to let the bird sit where he is (if he's inaccessible) while you work out a strategy. Do not frantically try to grab the bird, or scare him down. If the bird has just landed, he will probably not fly again for a while.
- Try to calmly call your bird down from where he is, offering bribes of his favourite treats, i.e. garlic bread, chips, something that smells strongly, even if not recommended treats. It's more important at this point to retrieve your bird safely.
- Bring things to him that are familiar, like toys, his cage, his bird friends, his favourite person.
- **Avoid having a crowd of people around the bird's favourite person**. A scared bird may not want to fly into a crowd of strangers. Give the bird's favourite person lots of room.
- Do not put unfamiliar objects up to your bird to have him step onto. More than likely this will only scare him to fly farther away. If you have a familiar item like a perch out of his cage, you may have a chance that he will step onto it.
- Keep in mind things like ladders, people climbing trees, cherry pickers, etc. may also scare your bird.
- Go extremely slowly if you resort to using these items. **Stop any action immediately if your bird looks like he wants to fly away**.
- Try moving from your bird's sight on occasion (but keep him in yours). This will create a level of anxiety in him which may cause him to try to come to you once you reappear. Usually birds will scream and/or start moving around a lot when they are ready to make an effort to return to you. If you notice this activity, come out from hiding. If you hear your bird screaming while you are hiding, he may be ready to fly, or is already in the air. Come out of hiding right away. Most parrots scream when they are flying in this type of situation.

6.4: If your bird is still out at sunset

- Parrots will usually fly again shortly before the sun starts to set.
- As the sun starts to set, he will start to fluff his feathers and get ready to roost for the night. **At this point, it is best to just allow him to go to sleep**.
- Keep an eye on him until the sun has set completely. Remember his exact location.
- Before the sun rises the next day, return to that location. Your bird should still be there, unless he was frightened in the night (other birds can cause this).
- Usually by dawn your bird will be ready to fly again, or make an attempt to get to you. Repeat the advice described in the section 'If you have located your bird but he is out of reach'.



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6.5: Who to inform

- Put LOST posts on as many different parrot forums you can think of including the many Lost and Found Bird / Parrot / Animal groups on Facebook and local community Facebook groups. You can also register with the Missing Pets Bureau.

What to Say and what not to Say

In your adverts include

- **A PICTURE** if possible, as not everyone will know what type of parrot they are looking for.
- **A BRIEF DESCRIPTION** of what your bird looks like when flying (colour, length of tail).
- **THE BIRD'S NAME** so people can call for the bird.
- Give a **CURRENT PHONE NUMBER**, one with an answerphone would be best.
- **DON'T PUT ANY IDENTIFYING DETAILS LIKE WORDS/SOUNDS, UNUSUAL MARKINGS AND RING NUMBERS, as people could then ring any 'FOUND' adverts and claim the bird for themselves.**

Register the bird as missing in as many places as possible including

- www.ParrotAlert.com
- www.theparrotsocietyuk.org/lost-parrots.php John Hayward keeps a Lost/Found Register.
- www.rspca.org.uk
- www.rspb.org.uk local bird-watchers may help look out.
- www.petsbureau.co.uk
- www.animalsearchuk.co.uk

6.6: Posters!

Lost bird registers such as Parrot Alert and AnimalSearch UK will generate a poster you can download. If you prefer to make ones yourself make sure you include the information suggested in the above section.

Some suggestions of where to post your Posters

- Give to neighbours (also ask the neighbourhood watch if you have one).
- Put them in community buildings, on notice boards (ask permission first).
- Where people queue. Bus stops, train station, chip shops, etc.
- Ask permission to put one on school notice boards.
- ALL local vets (not just avian). Internet search will bring these details up.



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- Dog grooming parlours, sounds daft but they walk their dogs a lot and may catch sight of your bird whilst walking.
- Put Posters up at the nearest park or area with trees.
- Give one to the milkman/woman, the postman/woman, paper boy.
- Put one up in supermarkets, petrol stations and local shops.
- Lamp posts in the area your bird was last seen.
- Police Station.
- Ring your local papers/radio stations to see if they will put the word out, too.
- Now with the internet you can also put 'free' adverts on lots of places such as facebook marketplace, <http://www.preloved.co.uk> and <http://www.admartfreeads.co.uk>

GO BACK TO ALL THE PEOPLE ON THIS LIST ON A WEEKLY BASIS TO REMIND THEM YOU ARE STILL LOOKING.

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