

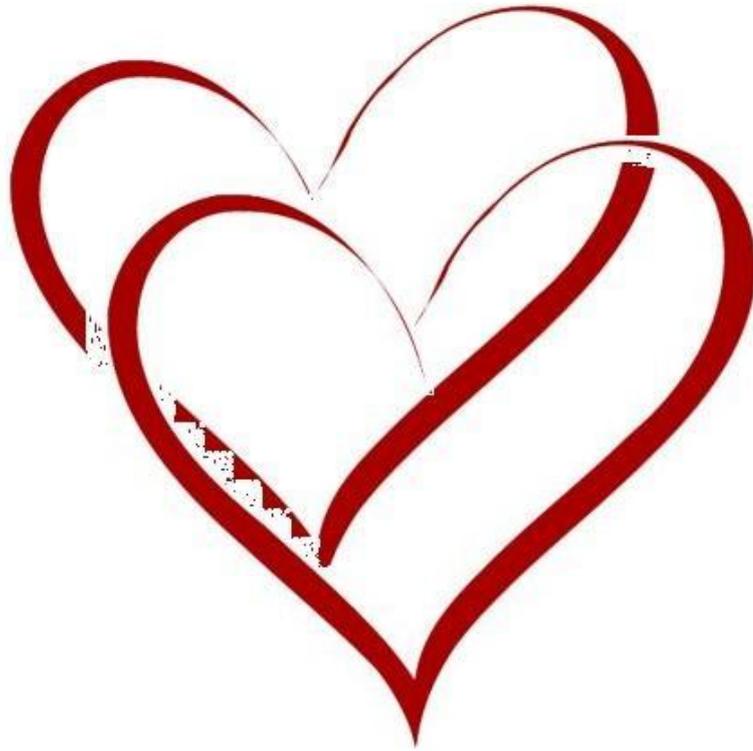
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# Welcome to Birdline UK LTD Parrot Rescue



**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 Rescu 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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BIRDLINE U.K. LTD.



# BIRDLINE PARROT RESCUE

## 7: SAFEHOUSE GUIDELINES

Safe Houses are the backbone of Birdline. Without them, we can't rescue parrots at all. You don't have to be super-experienced, you just need to be willing to learn, and listen to advice. Birdline has been rescuing parrots for many years, and we have a wealth of experience we are happy to share. If you are a 'newbie', you will have lots of help, and lots of people to answer questions.

As a Safe House, you take a bird into your care on a temporary basis. The bird has usually just been donated, and is therefore disorientated, sad, and frightened. For the first few days it needs special attention and care until it settles down. You will sometimes have some information provided by the owner, but often this information is not comprehensive enough, nor accurate. This means you will be working 'blind' with most of the birds. **Do NOT rename a Safe House bird – he's lost everything, don't make it worse.**

Some birds are 'found' and no background information at all is available. In these situations you have to take time to get to know the bird and its needs, remember for the first few days especially, if it is a found bird, it will be very frightened. Keep such birds isolated for at least 30 days, to prevent any possible illness spreading.

You may be asked to take in a 'Special Needs' bird. These birds need extra care, and you may need to provide medicines and vet visits may be necessary. If this is the case, Birdline will pay for the cost of these, provided that all expenses are cleared with your ACO first. Any queries about the treatment of Special Needs birds should be directed to Melinda Laws.

If you feel a bird has become too much to cope with, then call your ACO or Area Manager. As a Safe House you are at liberty to say 'no' to taking a bird you feel you can't cope with. We are all volunteers, no one is **made** to take on a bird.

If a bird at any time in your care, is sick or injured, and needs to see a vet, it is important that you contact your ACO **immediately**. If you cannot contact your ACO, then call your Area Manager. Failing that, contact the Director of your area, or the Helpline. **If the matter is urgent**, and you have tried and been unable to contact anyone, take the bird to a Birdline-approved AVIAN vet.

You should treat the bird as if it was your own, but you should try not to get too attached to it. We know this can be difficult, but the bird may have to move on. For every bird you keep in your home, that's one less bird you can help.

You should not allow birds in your care to bond with each other, especially if one of the birds is your own bird. We understand that this is difficult but you should endeavour to allow socialisation but not bonding. It is against Birdline policy to split a bonded pair.



# BIRDLINE PARROT RESCUE

## *Rehoming your Safehouse Bird*

Once you are confident that the bird can be rehomed, you should fill in an Evaluation Form online, and send it to your ACO, along with a picture or two of the bird outside the cage, so that the bird can be placed on the Rehoming List. Please note your Evaluation should be detailed and accurate.

Once the Rehoming Director has approved a Foster to take place, your ACO will contact you to arrange the logistics of moving the bird. The responsibility of the bird is that of the ACO, and any decisions to be made concerning the bird must be agreed with the ACO before any action is taken. You **must not** contact the new home directly to arrange a hand over. NEVER hand over a bird without prior notice from your ACO or Manager. If you have any doubt about any representative that is collecting a bird from you, call the Helpline.

ALWAYS use paperwork. Sometimes a bird needs to be relayed to another part of the country, or a different Safe House. Print two copies of the Bird Receipt, both to be filled in and signed by you, and by the person receiving the bird. Make sure that the bird's ring number/microchip details are included on the Bird Receipt. This is for your own protection – it leaves a paper trail that can be checked, so Birdline knows exactly where each bird is, and with whom.

## *Fostering your Safehouse Bird*

It is difficult not to 'fall in love' with the birds in your care, and many of our Safe Houses apply to Foster their birds. We have no objection to this, but please remember that we desperately need Safe Houses and cannot operate without them. The more birds you Foster, the less space you will have to take in Safe House birds, and sadly there is always another one around the corner who needs your help. Please consider if you still have space to be a Safe House.

**Fostering can only be authorised by the Rehoming Director**



## 7.1: Items a Safe house needs to provide

Whilst the bird is in your care you will be responsible for making sure it has everything it needs.

- You should give it the attention that it needs, be it training, socialisation or special medical care.
- Some birds come with cages, some without, so you will need to have access to a spare cage, perches and toys. If you do not, tell your ACO.
- A suitable carrier for the species of bird you are approved to care for.
- You should keep a basic First Aid Kit in your home, and you should be able to deal with a small injury – see Section 3.5
- F10SC disinfectant (clear - **not green**)

### *Dietary Requirements*

- Fresh water at least once daily.
- Fresh fruit / veg – please refer to our dietary advice.
- Zolcal – D Calcium supplement – especially for African Greys.
- A multi-vitamin powder such as Avi-Mix Daily Essentials or similar.
- Harrisons/Zupreem/Optibird/Animalzone/Kaytee/Hagen/Pretty Bird pellets\*
- A good quality seed mix such as Johnson & Jeff Low Sunflower, Bartholomews Avian Specific (AS20), Tidymix (10% off for Birdline Members) (sales@tidymixdiets.com), Parrot Premium Plus (Witte Molen) available from Rob Harvey.com\*\*
- If you wish to use a different feed, please check with your local ACO or Area Manager first.

\* Birds on a pellet diet shouldn't need vitamin supplements, but fruit/veg/sprouts/grains/pulses should be offered to provide variety and interest. No bird should be starved to 'encourage' it to eat pellets, any major change in diet should be done very gradually.

\*\*Many birds have a preference for seed-based diets; in this case it should be a low sunflower seed mix, with **NO MONKEY NUTS** at all. A variety of fruit/veg/grains/pulses should be given daily, and a calcium supplement and vitamin supplements too. Please see the Vitamin & Mineral sheet for more information. Powdered vitamins can be added to the water, but it's better to mix them with soft fruit, or seeds that have been tossed in a few drops of walnut oil or similar to make the seeds tacky, then the powder will adhere to the seeds.



## 7.2: Common abbreviations we use

### *Positions / Documents:*

ACO	Area Co-ordinating Officer	LCA	Lifelong Care Agreement
BR	Bird Receipt	PTS	Put To Sleep
BL	Birdline	PP	Parrot Passport
dBase	Database	SH	Safe House
EVAL	Evaluation Form	SC	Species Check
FA	Foster Agreement	TSHA	Temporary Safe House Agreement
HC	Homecheck	Vits/Mins	Vitamins & Minerals
MGR	Manager		

### *Birds*

AMMIE	Amazon	'KEET	Parakeet
BFA	Blue Fronted Amazon	(L)SC2	(Lesser) Sulphur Crested Cockatoo
B/G	Blue & Gold Macaw	M2	Moluccan Cockatoo
BHC	Black Headed Caique	MBC	Maroon Bellied Conure
BUD	Budgie	OWA	Orange Winged Amazon
CAG	Congo African Grey	QUAK	Quaker / Monk Parakeet
CAN	Canary	ROS	Rosella
CC2	Citron Crested Cockatoo	SENNIE	Senegal Parrot
CEL	Celesial / Pacific Parrotlet	'TIEL	Cockatiel
EKKIE	Eclectus Parrot	TAG	Timneh African Grey
GCC	Green Cheek Conure	'TOO	Cockatoo
G/W	Green Wing Macaw	U2	Umbrella Cockatoo
IRN	Indian Ringneck Parakeet		