

Monthly Newsletter From Gateway Parrot Club!

[View in your browser](#)

## September 2020



---

**Greetings <<First Name>>**

**New Gateway Parrot Club Facebook Group:**

Pssst.  
There's a  
NEW GPC  
Facebook  
group.



## GATEWAY PARROT CLUB **BUY SELL TRADE**

We still can't meet up in person, but we CAN buy each other's bird stuff!  
It's time to clean out your garage and basement. Please join us on our  
new Facebook group to find local deals on bird stuff and bird things!



[www.facebook.com/groups/gpcbuiselltrade/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gpcbuiselltrade/)

This group is designed to connect members of the Gateway Parrot Club and other parrot owners in the greater metro St. Louis region. It's a way to reach a targeted group of buyers to sell parrot accessories, equipment and parrot related items.

There are MANY buy, sell, trade pages on Facebook. This page is strictly designed to sell parrot related items only.

**ABSOLUTELY NO SELLING OF LIVE ANIMALS.**

For a comprehensive list of items prohibited by Facebook, please visit the link here:

<https://www.facebook.com/policies/commerce>.

Sell your birdie swag here!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gpcbuyselltrade/>

---

## **Greetings From The Presidential Perch**

At this time we have cancelled the Gateway Parrot Club meetings and will resume our monthly meetings based on guidance by St. Louis County and the CDC. Please stay safe and continue to follow the guidelines, such as, wearing face masks, social distancing, hand washing, and the use of hand sanitizers, etc. to stay healthy.

Fair Reminder - the Gateway Parrot Club will not have a Fair. We had two events planned but they were canceled due to Covid-19.

As we near the date of our future meetings we will announce if the meeting will be held or canceled based on the COVID-19 numbers and the government recommendations at the time.

Stay well and take care.

Renee Davis

---

## **Greetings From The GPC**

This month we are featuring a couple of stories about two of our member's parrots,

Hope you enjoy reading them. The first is from Jess Ellis who has made remarkable progress with her African Grey, Casey, that she took into her home. Casey's progress has been remarkable. The second article is by Julie Morgan about her lovebird, Tiki. Tiki is a senior bird and Julie talks about the health challenges she is facing in Tiki's senior years.

We plan to continue to feature member's birds so if you would like to participate, please submit your article with pictures. To submit your article, go to [gatewayparrotclub.org](http://gatewayparrotclub.org), select "Contact", Scroll down and select "Carole Grommet", fill in the form, and send. The only requirement is that you must be a member of the club to have your article published in the newsletter. Just tell us about one of your birds: funny stories, challenges you have faced, accomplishments, diet or medical issues, etc. Thanks for participating.

Next month we will be reporting on our first Virtual Zoom Boredom Buster Parrot Toy Making party that Robin Shewokis Sullivan will be leading us on September 20th. For those who are participating, please send pictures of the toys you made at [rcgrommet@att.net](mailto:rcgrommet@att.net).

---

**Casey's Story**

*by Jess Ellis*



Over a year ago I got Casey my African grey (see picture on left). Casey was rehomed to me from a family who really loved him and had him for 20 years, but they were getting older and had health issues that made it harder to care for him. As a result, Casey knew something was wrong, so he plucked out all his feathers from his legs to his neck. Casey's cage I remember was really filthy since it was harder for them to clean it because of their health.

Now, I have been thinking about adding a grey to my flock about a year after adding Izzy my Pionus to the flock. I also was still grieving from the loss of my beloved cockatiel Sunny. But, if I learned anything about making plans, it would be that sometimes that thing that has been on the back of your mind can happen when you least expect it. A post about him was up on the gateway parrot club Facebook page. I remember I commented on that post asking a question about him and I didn't think much of it. Then, one day I got a message about Casey and that he was in a desperate situation and needed a home as soon as possible. I then thought about it and decided to take him in.

When Casey first came home, he had to stay in a carrier while I did a HUGE cleaning on his cage. After scrubbing and spraying the cage, it turned out to be in better condition than I thought and it was still what I would consider livable. There was just one part missing which held one of the small doors on the cage which was replaced.

After a few days of having him, he did warm up to his cage but as you could guess he was still very stressed and didn't really want much to do with me. I couldn't touch or handle him at the time so my only way to attempt to bond with him was to talk to him and put a treat in his bowl. After a few months of doing this he began to allow me to pet his head and I was able to put him on a much healthier diet. Casey even allowed some of his feathers to grow in. However, around Christmas time, Casey began plucking his feathers out again. I didn't know why he was doing it at the time. I took him to the vet for a check up and they said that nothing was medically wrong with him. I remember being frustrated about this since I couldn't figure out what could be wrong. My only guesses were either his skin was too dry and itchy or it could be a hormonal issue. Possibly both. I then decided to not let his plucking get in the way of our bonding and continued to pet him, let him out, and give him treats.

I soon wanted to take the extra step of attempting to handle Casey. I will tell you this was not an easy task, it took me over 6 months after getting him to get him to step up onto my hand. To start off I just put my arm on top of his cage and kept it there for a few minutes while he was out. I kept doing this for weeks in hopes to show him that my arm is not a threat. One night he was interested in my arm on his cage. He got closer to it and put a foot on it. I just kept my arm on the cage and didn't move until he put his other foot on my hand. He eventually did and I picked him up right away. As you could guess, he was pretty freaked out but he soon got used to doing it. I would take him to different rooms and introduce him to new environments around my home.

That soon leads us to today. Casey is a sweet, curious, and a little goofy boy. He loves to dance around and make sounds that will make you laugh. He knows a few words such as "hello" "okay" and "hello fuzzbutt." However he is more interested in mimicking noises and whistles. His favorite toys include his green ring swing that he sleeps in every night, a toy that has wood and cardboard on a piece of string that he likes to chew on, a green ball with a bell inside on a chain that he will attack while hanging

Casey is also a good eater. Even if he doesn't like something, he will at least try it. Today, he had some TOPS pellets with some Higgins seed blend. He also ate some apple and green bell pepper. One of our favorite things to do is read together. I will put him down on my side and pet him while I read a book. He will put his foot up in his feathers and fall asleep in front of me. I remember reading that if they do this, it means they really trust you. I am glad to have his trust and this has made things so much easier for both of us. Casey now preens more than he plucks (see picture on the right above). His head, neck, legs, upper back, top of his wings, and most of his belly have feathers. He is also growing in a tail and I hope he keeps it. I can't wait to see what adventures he will experience. Maybe when we start doing in person meetings I could bring Casey along. Everyone will love Him and he is a character.

Signing off  
-Jess Ellis

## Tiki's Story

by Julie Morgan



In 2007, I brought a young Lovebird home which turned into a journey of mutual friendship and love. A friend with feathers. How was I to know something so small would have such great impact on my heart. I had named my friend Tiki and in time my "he" turned out to be a "she" when she laid her first egg. I exclaimed, "Tiki! You're a girl!" Very sweetly she looked up to me and softly said, "Pretty Bird." Along with a big personality in a tiny body, Tiki brought me miles of antics, laughter, cuddles, and joy.

The years sped along and with all things loved comes a knowledge that time does run out. I first experienced this fear in 2015 when she became egg bound. After two vets attempted to help, things were not looking good. A third vet, Dr. Baebler, noticed she

was dropping weight. Losing too much body mass, and to achieve a successful surgery outcome, Dr. Baebler knew that time was of the essence. So into surgery Tiki went. I knew it was risky with a small bird but there was no other option than to try surgery to save her life. I was not about to let this egg take her. I watched from a window as my nails slowly descended-a true nail biting moment. Then, when they could not wake her up, my heart sank. Dr. Baebler gave her a shot of epinephrine, her heart started moving and breathing was heard louder on the monitor. Euphoria hit me hard knowing my girl made it. Result? Full hysterectomy (that little body endured an abdominal incision)- removal of the oviduct, and the egg was finally retrieved. It had gotten lodged under a rib after tearing through her oviduct during a prior vet visit. After this finding, I knew there was no way she would have survived without surgery. I made the right decision. She was placed in a little heated hospital tank and I was able to take her home in a couple of days to finish recovery.



The next scare was at the end of 2019 when Tiki's breathing appeared to be failing. Antibiotics and pain meds were attempted and I was told an x-ray could kill her. I was also told she would probably die shortly. Once again, I went into problem solving mode. I took her to a specialist, Dr. Whitehead, and that is when a new plan of action unfolded. The



the medicated air. 0.5 ML Albuterol Sulfate into 5 ML sterile saline to use along with a nebulizer for 10 minutes 1 to 3 times a day. All went well and Tiki's air sacs improved. One side of her body totally healed but the other has some permanent scar tissue so I still do breathing

treatments from time to time.

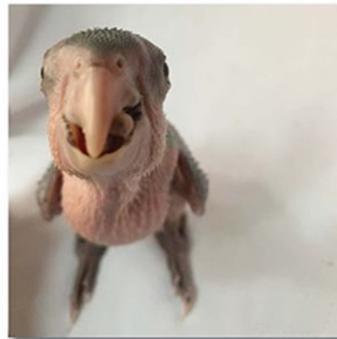
Tiki will be 13 next month and my goal after the breathing scenario was to get her that far. She is happy and loves life. As long as she has quality of life, I will take her as far as she will fight for; she IS a true fighter. So here's to Tiki, a life well lived and one who still has a lot to live for. I'm trying to prepare myself but... I know, as we all do, the pain of losing someone whose lifespan is shorter than our own.



When I grow up,  
I'm going to join the  
Gateway Parrot Club.

Are you a member yet?

[WWW.GATEWAYPARROTCLUB.ORG](http://WWW.GATEWAYPARROTCLUB.ORG)



## **Not a member yet?**

[Join online](#) and pay dues securely through our website!

Our PayPal email address is [payments@gatewayparrotclub.org](mailto:payments@gatewayparrotclub.org)

You can also [Download a membership application](#) and bring it to our next meeting, or contact our membership secretary through [GatewayParrotClub.org](http://GatewayParrotClub.org)

**Our Officers and Board members:** <http://gatewayparrotclub.org/about-us/>

**Join our FaceBook group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GateWayParrotClub/>

Email Bryan at [4birdsmx@gmail.com](mailto:4birdsmx@gmail.com) if you want to submit an article, pictures, or have a suggestion for the newsletter, etc.

**The Gateway Parrot Club, Inc.** is a 501c3 not for profit organization based in St. Louis Missouri and established in 1988 to:

- Bring people together in a friendly atmosphere in the interest of exchanging information on bird care and breeding.
- Create interest in bird care and responsible breeding through monthly educational programs and annual bird fairs.
- Reduce neglect, cruelty and abuse of captive birds through education and public outreach.
- Educate the public, as well as ourselves, on the ever present danger of extinction in the wild.

[Become a Member Now](#)

---

*Copyright © 2020 Gateway Parrot Club, Inc., All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

