

## How To Find A Home For Your Parrot

Like many adoption organizations, Phoenix Landing's wait list is substantial. In cases where your family must find a home for your bird before Phoenix Landing can place the parrot, consider these alternatives.

### Is it really time to relinquish?

The best solution for all is if a parrot can keep her home. Before giving up your bird, come to one of our basic classes, and brush up on diet, health, behavior, enrichment and more. All of our classes are listed on the Events page of our web site. [www.phoenixlanding.org](http://www.phoenixlanding.org).

If you are relinquishing because of a behavior problem, have you tried to resolve it? We have **classes throughout the DC area** every month (and classes in the Raleigh and Asheville areas of NC as well). All are free, and registration is not required. Join us. Even if the topic does not address your behavior problem, there are people at classes who can talk with you and brainstorm some solutions.

**Join our yahoo group** and ask for help. The Phoenix Landing yahoo group has many members who can offer great advice.

**Encourage independent play.** Often birds are relinquished because their caretakers no longer have time to spend with them. Parrots do not need as much one on one time as many think. They enjoy being part of the flock, but appreciate ambient attention greatly. Giving your bird more things to do may help solve the problem: Learn how to make lots of cheap, easy to make toys and fill your parrot's cage with activities.

Also consider:

- Ensuring your bird is healthy. Make an appointment with a qualified avian vet.
- Working with a behaviorist to learn new techniques to try.
- Boarding your bird for a week or so to see if a small vacation can reset behavior problems.
- Reset your expectations. A parrot is very different than a dog or cat. Many birds do not like to be snuggled or petted, and if they do, this can lead to hormonal issues. Are there other ways to spend time with your bird that don't always rely on touch?

### If you must relinquish . . .

If you must find a new home for your bird and Phoenix Landing's wait list is too long, **find the best home you can.** Your parrot is counting on you to give her to someone who can afford to care for her and who has a clear understanding of her needs.

Do not simply give the bird away on Craig's List or another forum.

Be sure to ask for an adoption fee. As part of the fee, let your bird keep her cage. It will make her transition that much easier. There are lots of used bird cages out there, it's hard to give them away much less sell them.

Take the bird to the vet and recoup the money in the adoption fee. A cage and a healthy bird will go a long way towards finding a quality home more quickly.

Post a flyer at a vet's office –even a dog and cat vet. People who bring their animals to the vet are more likely to provide the care your parrot needs. Pet stores that do not sell animals may also be willing to post a flyer.

Network in the same way you might when you are looking for a job. Tell anyone and everyone, and post on social media, that you are looking for your parrot's next home.

Ask any person interested in taking in your bird the basics, such as if they have had a bird before, which species and for how long. Ask them what they'll feed her, if they know how much vet visits cost, and what other animals and people are in the home.

Don't give a bird to a family with young children unless the parrot is for the entire family. Children often lose interest in pets quickly, especially those that do not like to be cuddled.

Ask any potential adopters if they would be willing to come to a Phoenix Landing basic class.

Inquire at a wild bird store (the kind that sells seed and feeders) to see if people ask them for help placing parrots, and if you can post a flyer there.

If your birds are breeding, please stop them. Separate the birds by sexes, and destroy the eggs before they hatch by shaking them or freezing them.