

Connecticut Parrot Society, Inc.

Adoption Program Policies and Procedures

Policies

The objective of the Connecticut Parrot Society's (CPS) adoption program is to find loving, permanent homes for Connecticut birds in need of placement and to support them in becoming established in their new homes.

Procedures

Birds awaiting acceptance into the CPS adoption program must remain in the current owner's home until a suitable adoptive home is found. CPS does not provide a rescue or a rehabilitation program, because it is not trained or licensed for such placements. Foster care will not be routinely provided and would be used only in emergencies. Under such emergency conditions, a bird may be placed in foster care only after the required disease tests and exams have been completed (see A), and if an approved foster home is available.

The CPS adoption program will use the following procedures for all adoptions:

A. Veterinary Examination and Care

1. A veterinary visit and disease test for psittacosis, beak-and-feather disease, and avian gastric yeast are required for acceptance of a bird into the program. When the results of the exam and test are received by the adoption chairperson, a decision will be made whether the bird will be accepted into the adoption program based on the exam and test results. The cost of the exam will be paid by the current owner of the bird. When the cost of such exam and test is beyond the means of the owner, the adoption chairperson has the option of having CPS cover the cost, up to a maximum of \$100.

If the bird has a positive lab result for beak-and-feather disease, the bird will be denied admittance into the CPS adoption program. The adoption chairperson will notify the owner of such denial.

If there is a positive result for psittacosis or avian gastric yeast, the bird must be treated before being reconsidered again for entrance into the CPS adoption program. A veterinarian report stating that such bird has been treated for, and no longer has, the disease or diseases must be submitted to the adoption chairperson. The adoptive chairperson will notify the owner of this requirement.

If negative results for all required lab testing are received from the veterinarian by the adoption chairperson, all procedures as outlined under B. Intake will be followed.

B. Intake

1. Healthy birds will be reviewed for acceptance into the program following completion of a

home visit and receipt of a completed CPS relinquishment-of-ownership form, and the required processing fee of \$20 by the bird's current owner. This fee is waived for relinquishment of budgerigars (parakeets).

- a. A visit to the home of the current owner may be requested by the adoption chairperson (in all such subsequent wording, this term also includes "or their designee") to include interaction with the bird to determine behavior characteristics, and to interview the current owners with regard to the bird's needs. Home visits will be scheduled by the adoption chairperson at a time convenient to the bird owners.
 - b. Such birds shall remain with the current owner until such time that an adoptive home is found, unless the adoption chairperson will accept the bird as an emergency.
2. Special-needs birds include those with physical limitations requiring special handling and support, and those with chronic behavioral problems or other conditions that limit a bird's activities or ability to thrive without human intervention. This category includes birds with controlled, non-infectious diseases, (e.g. diabetes, seizure disorders). These birds will be accepted into the adoption program on presentation of a completed CPS relinquishment of ownership form by the bird's current owner (same stipulations as in #1, above). Birds with an infectious disease will not be accepted into the CPS adoption program.

A home visit must be scheduled by the adoption chairperson (same as above). Additionally, any communication with respect to such a bird must include a description of the disability and any requirements for the proper support or care of the bird.

3. Birds may be rejected from acceptance into the adoption program at the discretion of the adoption chairperson. Grounds for rejection may include but are not limited to the following:
- a. Illness (may be accepted after illness is resolved)
 - b. Extreme behavior problems
 - c. Severe physical impairment
 - d. Any other health concerns

C. Foster Care

1. All CPS foster homes must be approved by the adoption chairperson. A CPS foster care application and a CPS hold-harmless agreement must be completed by the prospective foster person. The hold-harmless agreement must be witnessed by the adoption chairperson during the subsequent home visit. Non-members are not eligible to foster.
2. In hardship (e.g., emergency) cases, and where CPS has an available, pre-approved foster home, the bird may be transferred to that home as quickly as possible. All previous procedures under A. and B. of the adoption policies and procedures must be completed first. In all such cases, the best interest of the bird is the overriding factor in all subsequent decision making.

3. When making any decision about placement of a bird into foster care, the adoption chairperson is to consider the current number of emergency placements already in foster homes, and the availability of an approved foster home to care properly for the species of the bird in question.
4. The current owner of the bird must complete and sign a CPS relinquishment-of-ownership form and processing fee.
5. Birds will be placed into a foster home that is best able to meet the individual needs of each bird. Factors that go into such decision making include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - The species and the condition of the bird is acceptable to the foster family
 - The extent of experience the foster family has had with the particular species
 - The number of birds currently in the foster home
 - The availability of adequate space for the safety and comfort of the bird
 - The ability to quarantine the bird
6. On placement of a bird in a foster home, the adoption chairperson will be reasonably available to assist the foster family when requested. The foster person will provide periodic updates on the bird to the adoption chairperson. The foster person is responsible for the housing and care of the bird, until such time it is adopted. The adoption chairperson may conduct follow-up visits at any time during the foster-care period.
7. At any time after placement, the foster person may request that the adoption chairperson find another suitable home for the CPS bird in his or her care. The adoption chairperson shall act on this request as quickly as possible. The bird will remain with the present foster until a new foster or adoption is available.
8. On a subsequent finding that conditions in a foster home are detrimental to a particular CPS bird, the adoption chairperson may take the necessary steps to remove the bird to another approved foster home. The adoption chairperson will take appropriate arrangements for the expedient removal of the bird.
9. A foster person may subsequently submit an application to adopt a bird in his or her care. The best interest of the bird in question will be considered when choosing an appropriate, permanent, and adoptive home. Fostering a bird will not guarantee its placement for adoption in that particular foster home.
10. When CPS is unable to find emergency placement for a particular bird, the adoption chairperson will provide referral information, if available, to the owner about other possible placement options.

D. Adoption: Members and Non-members

1. Persons wishing to adopt a bird from the CPS adoption program must be at least 21 years of

age. The following procedures must be followed to adopt a bird from CPS:

- A completed, signed adoption application and an application fee for each bird must be submitted to the adoption chairperson. Groupings of birds may require only one application, at the discretion of the adoption chairperson.
 - Non-members will pay an additional adoption fee, as determined by the board of directors, at the time they adopt a bird.
 - Birds will become available for adoption by non-members after they have been in the adoption program for 30 days.
 - A visit to the prospective adoptive home is to be made by the adoption chairperson to determine if the housing needs of the bird can be satisfactorily met.
 - All adoption applications received for a particular bird will be reviewed by at least three members of the adoption committee. The best interest of the bird is the primary factor in any decision making by the committee when choosing the best adoptive person or home. All applicants will be advised of the committee's decision. Once a decision has been made, the adoption chairperson will contact the selected family to complete such placement in the least-stressful manner to the bird as quickly as possible.
2. Adoption applications not selected for a requested bird will remain on file at CPS for six months from the date of submission or until another bird is adopted, whichever occurs first.
 3. CPS adoption application fees are determined by the board of directors. Application fees are non-refundable.
 4. All application fees and donations to the adoption program collected by CPS will be used to defray adoption expenses (e.g., veterinarian bills, food, perches, toys). These fees may also be used for CPS outreach and education program costs and supplies.
 5. With the approval of the adoption chairperson, CPS may waive the adoption application fee under special circumstances.

These revised adoption policies and procedures were approved by the CPS board of directors at its regular board meeting of _____ and are effective as of this date.