

# Connecticut Parrot Society, Inc

## Adoption Policies and Procedures

### Policies

The objective of the Connecticut Parrot Society's (CPS) adoption committee is to find loving, permanent homes for CT birds in need of placement and to support them (and their owners) 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 such time that a suitable adoptive home is found. CPS does not provide a rescue or 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, and for a limited time. Under such emergency conditions, a bird may be placed in foster care only if an approved foster home is available.

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

#### A. Intake

1. Healthy birds will be reviewed for acceptance into the program on submittal of a completed CPS Relinquishment of Ownership form by the bird's current owner.
  - 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 assess the bird's condition, as well as 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 owner.
  - b. Such birds shall remain with the current owner until such time an adoptive home is found, unless the adoption chairperson will accept the bird in an emergency (provided an approved foster home is available).
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 above in #1). Birds that are ill, (e.g., infectious or communicable diseases) will not be accepted into the CPS adoption program.
  - a. A home visit must be scheduled by the adoption chairperson (same as above). In addition, 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. A veterinarian exam, tests, and a written plan of care may be required prior to placement in the adoption program. In addition, a CPS special-needs form must be completed and signed by the attending veterinarian or owner, if a vet visit is not requested by the adoption chairperson.

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:
  - Illness (may be accepted after illness is resolved)
  - Extreme behavior problems
  - Severe physical impairment
  - Any other health concerns, at the discretion of the adoption chairperson

## **B. Veterinary Examination and Care**

1. The adoption chairperson may require a veterinary examination or tests as a requirement for acceptance of a bird into the program. The cost of the exam will be paid by the current owner of the bird. When the cost of such exam is beyond the means of the owner, the adoption chairperson has the option of having CPS to cover the cost of the exam, up to a maximum of \$100.

## **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.
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. 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 bird in question.
4. The current owner of the bird must complete and sign a CPS Relinquishment of Ownership form.
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.
  8. On a subsequent finding that conditions in a foster home are detrimental to a particular CPS bird, the adoption chairperson may recommend to the CPS board of directors that the bird be removed to another approved foster home. The adoption chairperson will make appropriate arrangements for the expedient removal of the bird.
  9. A foster person may subsequently submit an application to adopt a bird in his/her care. The best interest of the bird in question will be considered when choosing an appropriate, permanent, and adoptive home. Thus, 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**

1. Persons wishing to adopt a bird from the CPS adoption program must be a member of CPS for at least thirty (30) days and 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 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.
  - 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 (3) 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, but as quickly as possible.

2. Adoption applications not selected will remain on file at CPS for six (6) months from the date of submission or until a bird is adopted, whichever occurs first.
3. CPS Adoption Application fees are determined by the board of directors. The Adoption Application fee is \$25. This fee is non-refundable.
4. All application fees and any 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 board of directors, 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 January 15, 2009, and are effective as of this date.

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Axel Elling  
Secretary, CPS