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centre pages

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exhibitor you
are looking for,
page 18

Three great
Masterclasses
to attend.
See page 8

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Don't forget
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PRESENTS



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Welcome to Think Parrots 2015



Dear Visitor,

Following the success of our move to Kempton Park Racecourse last year, it was a simple decision to continue and again hold this year's event at Kempton. Many of you have commented how pleased you have been with the exhibition, the Masterclasses and the overall accommodation.

The combination of an exhibition with lots of goods and services to purchase, together with Masterclasses, has been very successful and added a wide variety of interest. This year we have three Masterclasses to allow a slightly longer time for each, and with enough time between each one for you to be able to visit the stands and enjoy other aspects of the show.

With our three experts presenting Masterclasses and many parrot experts in attendance, there is a great opportunity to listen and learn and gain knowledge in order to provide the best care to your birds.

Also what has happened over the previous three years is that a number of you have forged new friendships with others who have the same interests and when you have exchanged knowledge and all sorts of things about your birds. Many have said they very much enjoyed the 'social' aspects of the Show and how pleasant it was that everybody seemed so friendly and helpful, making for an extremely rewarding day out.

In order to make the Show even more enjoyable, I would very much appreciate your comments and as such, you will find a number of 'Comments' boxes situated around the Show into which you can leave your completed 'Comments' forms, which you should have received on entry.

We hope this year's Show will continue to build on the success we have had so far and I look forward to seeing many of you again on what I hope will be great summer weather on the longest day.

John Catchpole

Publisher; *Parrots* magazine and
THINK PARROTS SHOW organiser



Think Parrots 2015 Show: Presented by *Parrots* magazine • **Show Organisers:** John Catchpole & Val Lawler
Advertising Sales: Val Lawler • **Marketing & PR:** Laura Ball • **Show Guide design:** David Ransom
Parrots magazine, The Old Cart House, Applesham Farm, Coombes, Lancing, West Sussex BN15 0RP
Tel: 01273 464777 • Fax: 01273 463999 • Email: show@thinkparrots.co.uk • Web: www.thinkparrots.co.uk



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Welcome from the Show's sponsor



Dear Visitor,

Northern Parrots is, again, delighted to be supporting Parrots magazine's fourth THINK PARROTS Show. With the emphasis on education, the Show offers parrot owners the opportunity to listen and learn from experts how to provide the best care for their birds. We also advocate owners taking full responsibility for the lives of their birds, ensuring the best possible care and well-being is paramount.

The first three Shows have been very successful, with the Masterclasses being particularly popular and have been an inspiration to the many owners of companion birds, breeders, conservationists and veterinarians who are passionate about offering their parrots the best care and stimulating enrichment.

Northern Parrots is a premier supplier offering the widest range of parrot supplies and accessories available. Whatever parrot, or parrots you have, you'll find everything here all under one roof to meet your needs. Most importantly, whatever products and accessories we provide, you're guaranteed great service and great value prices!

Once again, we are looking forward to meeting customers, old and new, and are always happy to give advice on the many different foods, supplements, parrot treats, cages, Java trees and a wide range of parrot accessories, so please ask! This year we have some great offers on cages, stands, carriers, toys, foods, treats and lighting, come and see for yourselves!

Enjoy the Show!

Mike Taylor

Northern Parrots
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Careful thought before that first purchase

By Rosemary Low

The Probate Practice commissioned a survey of the general public about wills and probate and found that 60% of people have not made a will. The survey asked, "Would you want to inherit a relative's pet?" Forty-one per cent of people said 'No'. In the list of items that people would not want to inherit, worn furniture came out at 40%, holiday souvenirs at 28% and sporting memorabilia at 21%, but pets were top of the 'do not want' list.

My guess is that quite a few visitors to the wonderful "Think Parrots" event are there because they are thinking about acquiring a parrot for the first time. They will find a lot of information on-line (of variable quality and often conflicting), most of it concerned with the care and feeding of these birds. But few articles mention the disadvantages of the longevity of parrots. Smaller species can live for at least 20 years, if well cared for, and the larger ones up to 50 years with some macaws and cockatoos living up to 60 years. Claims of 80 and 90 years I would suggest are exaggerated.

Before buying a parrot, carefully consider the potential lifespan of the species in

relation to your age. Also, ask yourself who will look after this bird if you are no longer able to do so. Once it was easy to re-home parrots but in recent years, so many have been imported and so many bred, that now the difficulties in re-homing a parrot satisfactorily can be immense.

Yes, there are 'parrot rescue centres', but I should warn that some of these are short-lived and little more than a euphemism for dealing. The genuine ones are usually small and quickly full to capacity. In recent years dog rescue facilities are so overwhelmed with unwanted animals that, sadly, euthanasia is often the only answer, and this already happens with parrots in the USA. Often the reason why parrots and dogs become unwanted is because too little thought was given to the purchase. A pretty puppy or a clinging young hand-reared parrot is often the victim of impulse buying.

The phone calls that dismay me are those from someone asking for help in re-homing a parrot, and almost everyone I know in the parrot world ran out of suggestions a long time ago. A companion bird often suffers extreme loneliness and stress without the person it

has grown to depend upon. Another question for the potential parrot owner to ask him or herself is, "Who will look after my bird when I am on holiday?"

A pet store or other businesses where birds are arriving from different sources are not usually suitable as, unfortunately these days, viral diseases such as psittacine beak and feather disease (PBFD), proventricular dilatation disease (PDD) and polyoma virus are much more common than most people realise. Pet stores, and big sale days, are potentially very hazardous places for birds, especially young ones whose immune systems are not fully functional. In an enclosed space, unlike outdoor aviaries, viral diseases can wipe out whole collections.

If you are the contented owner of a happy parrot please give a lot of thought to who can care for it when you are no longer there. This should take into consideration the parrot's preferred gender, and if it will be a family member, ensure it actually likes that person and check on a regular basis that the recipient can take your bird. Put this in your will, otherwise your parrot or parrots might not have a happy ending.



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Masterclass Timetable

Masterclasses are on the first floor. Access by stairs and lift by main entrance.



Neil Forbes, FRCVS



Mike Simmons



Mark Hagen

❖ **11.00 - 12.00: Are you feeding your parrots correct diets?**



Speaker: **Neil Forbes FRCVS**

Neil Forbes FRCVS, who is a world renowned avian vet and speaker, will be sharing his in-depth knowledge about correct parrot diets, and is committed to improving welfare standards provided by owners to captive parrots. Neil is a principal at Great Western Exotic Vets, where he trains and mentors up and coming avian vets. **Stand 15.**

❖ **1.00 - 2.00: Advancements in training parrots**



Speaker: **Mike Simmons**

Mike Simmons is an internationally recognised bird trainer and speaker and is well known for his amazing flying displays. His passion is evident with his many achievements and successes in training parrots. Mike will be talking about advancements in training parrots, which will also feature a number of free-flying birds. **Stand 8.**

❖ **3.00 - 4.00: Early Education and Development of Parrots**



Speaker: **Mark Hagen**

Mark Hagen is the Director of Research at Rolf C. Hagen Inc. and the Hagen Avicultural Research Institute (HARI). HARI has gained a worldwide reputation for its ongoing studies into captive breeding, maintenance and nutrition of companion birds. Mark is flying in from Canada exclusively to speak at the Show and will be on Rolf C Hagen's **stand number 2.**

(Schedule may vary slightly depending on circumstances)



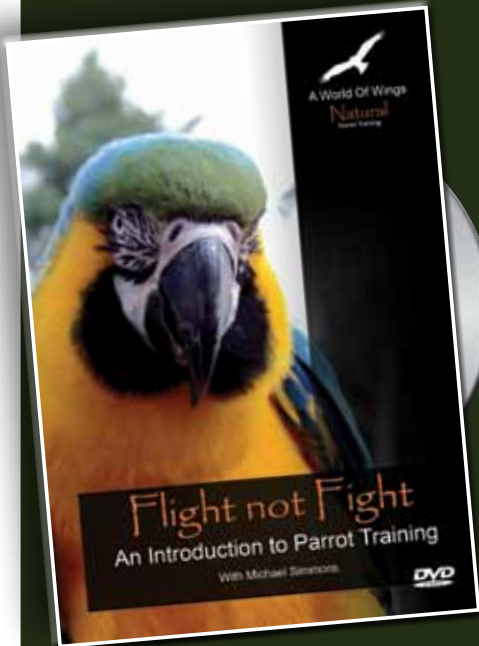
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Stand
No. 8

Flight not Fight

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Michael's approach is to create a strong relationship with each and every one of his parrots, earned through being a protector and positive character in their lives. These birds work with him in free flight bird displays and demonstrations, around the UK. Michael says, "The link to parrots in the wild, plays a large part in my training methods, and the techniques I use come very natural to the birds."

Flight not Fight is available from
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Which Amazon to choose...

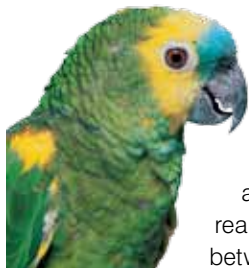
Q I want to buy a young hand-reared Amazon parrot to keep as a pet, and am looking at Blue-fronts, Yellow-crowned, Red-lored and Double Yellow-headed. Can you tell me the disadvantages and advantages of each species?

A With any hand-reared parrot, you must be absolutely sure that this is what you want, because you are making a commitment with a creature that, if well-cared for, will live for many, many years, and unlike a pet dog, you can't just take it for walks to keep it happy! So, it is vital that you understand that your life will change considerably because of the time you will have to spend with him. Parrots can be very loving and become strongly bonded to you, which may present problems when you want to go on holiday or need to spend time away.

I believe that having looked at many different species of Amazons, the reason you cannot make up your mind which one to buy, is because they are all so beautiful! I have found that although different species can vary in character and behaviour, when treated as pets, they are very much the same, so I would suggest you decide exactly which species you would like as a pet and learn as much about it from personal experiences, from specialised books and magazines such as *Parrots* before you consider buying one. Some Amazons can be taught to have a limited vocabulary, but be prepared for them screaming for attention too - patience is the key word.

Amazon parrots will fit into your way of life, but do not keep your pet locked up in a cage, day and night. When you want to reward him, feed him or her only inside its cage, and give it titbits in its cage too. This way, the parrot will look upon the cage as its home, and not a prison. When out of its cage, no bird should be left unattended; they like to chew and gnaw, and furniture and electric cables can be favourites! It is essential that you show your pet love and affection from the day you take it home, and you will be astonished how quickly they learn to fit into your environment.

I would suggest that you buy your pet from a reputable breeder and perhaps make arrangements to visit and handle him during the rearing process, as this is an excellent way of building-up a mutual bond between you. **Bob Mann**



Comments form

We hope you enjoy this year's Think Parrots Show and that you will come again next year. We value feedback from our visitors as it will help us improve future events. Please would you kindly take a few moments to complete the 'Comments' form and pop it in one of the 'Comments' boxes located on the Parrots magazine stand, by the rest area or in the entrance lobby.





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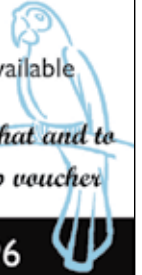


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Different Parrot Biting Behaviours



by **Sally Blanchard**

Biting behaviours have many different reasons and many different bite types. Understanding why various bites occur can keep our relationships with our parrots. Parrots are rarely biters in the wild and most of their aggression is reactive and based on threats from other birds or animals. They generally bluff by puffing themselves up and showing off their colours. It is not natural for them to initiate aggression, and I believe this is also true of companion parrots. Most biting is in response to confusion, a perceived threat, and/or aggression towards them.

Early Beak Exploration and Play

Baby parrots come into their lives as explorers. Once they get past the 'eat, poop, and sleep stage', parrot chicks develop an avid curiosity about the world around them and everything in it. The ends of their tongues and beaks have encapsulated nerve endings that help them to determine what they are touching. With an almost insatiable curiosity they want to explore their world and this means touching everything with their tongues and beaks. This is more nibbling than it is biting. Is it food that they are touching? Does it feel good? What is it made of? Is it soft or



hard? Is it soft enough to chew on? How does the person handling the bird respond to their nibbling?

Some explorative biting can turn into play biting depending on the person's reaction. Human hands are soft enough to chew on, but the birds want to know all about them and how they are attached to the rest of the person wiggling them around. They haven't learned yet that their beaks can cause pain if they chew the person's fingers too hard. Early explorative nibbling, chewing or biting is rarely, if ever, based on aggression. The exception would be if young parrots become wary or afraid because they perceive that a person is threatening or being aggressive with them...

Want to read more? The full article is in issue 206, March 2015, of *Parrots* magazine, available to buy now from **Parrots magazine, stand number 4**



Why don't you?

Ever thought about forming a club where you can not only socialise with other parrot enthusiasts, but also learn a lot from guest speakers and by exchanging knowledge and information? Providing the best care for your birds is paramount and the most effective way of achieving that is to talk to other people, learn by their successes and mistakes, the result of which will be an even better relationship with your birds.

It doesn't need to be a daunting task to form a club and only requires enthusiasm and a modest amount of organising. Our Think Parrot Shows are not that far removed from being one big club, but



of course, not everybody can attend. This is where regional or local clubs can play an important role in continuing with education and responsibility that can only bring benefits to all of us, including our birds.

Leicestershire and East Midlands Parrot Clubs have been extremely successful and the members have benefited enormously. The cost doesn't need to be significant as often local amenities (village halls, etc) can be hired for very modest sums. A small membership of a few pounds a year can set everything up. All you need is a main organiser, a treasurer (can be the same person) and away you go!

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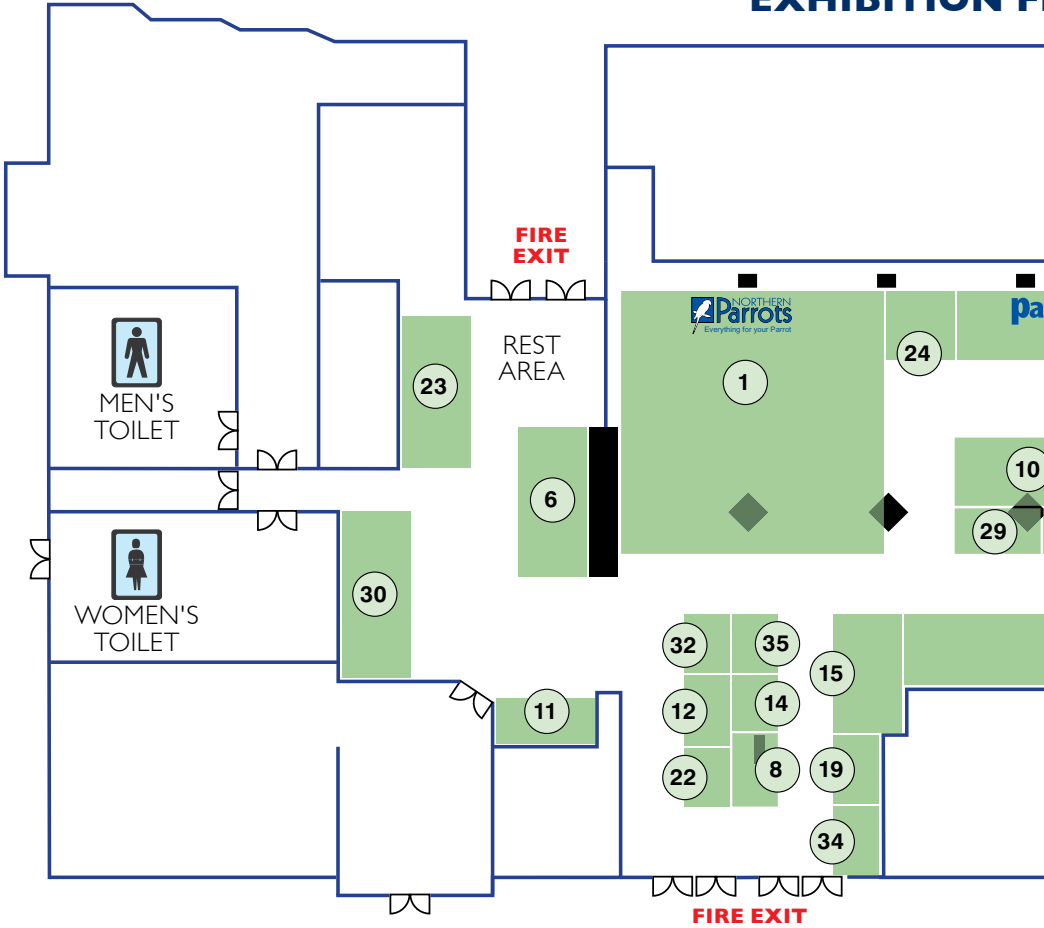


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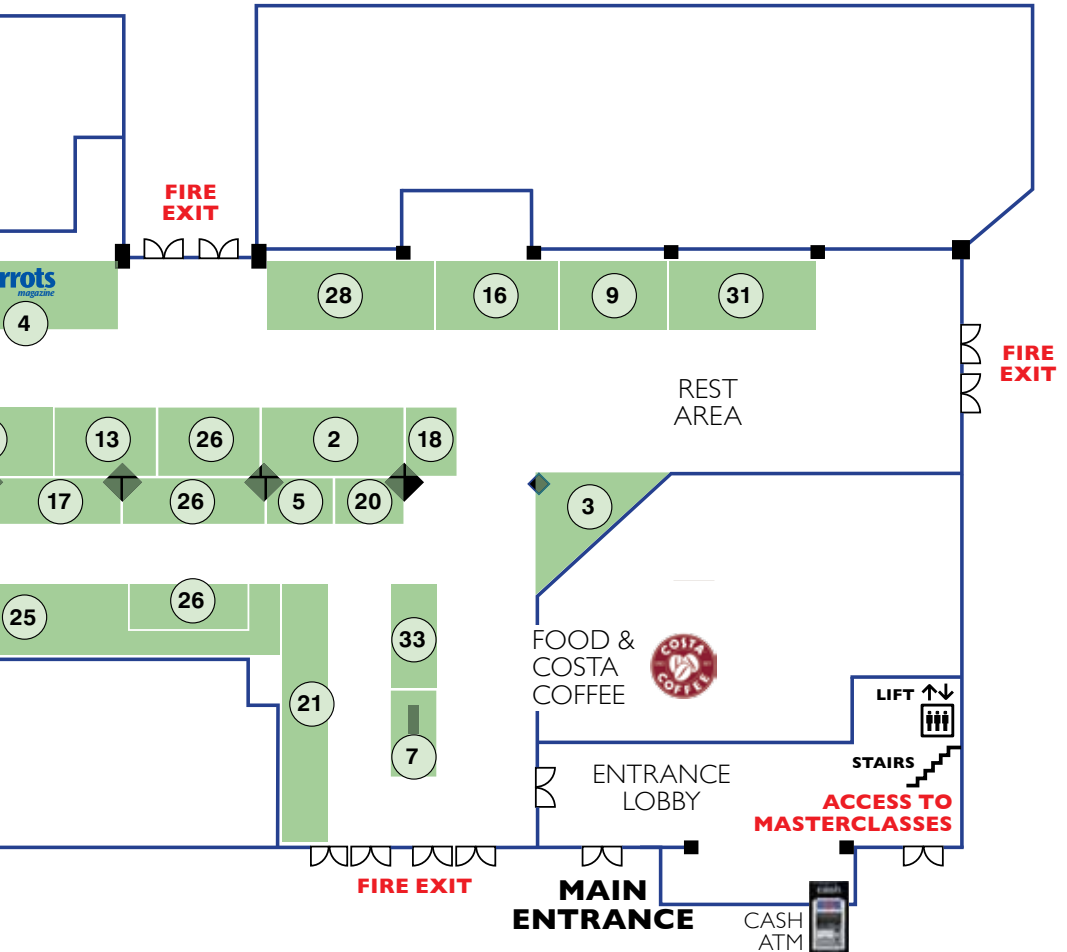


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THE BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY – 16

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Email: matkoil@msn.com

Web: www.budgerigarociety.com

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COCKATOO SANCTUARY – 31

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OLIVER FRY – 29

Oliver will, again, be bringing his own companion African Greys and will be willing to speak about how he has cared for his birds, and the many different aspects and behaviour of African Grey parrots.

GARDEN FEATHERS – 28

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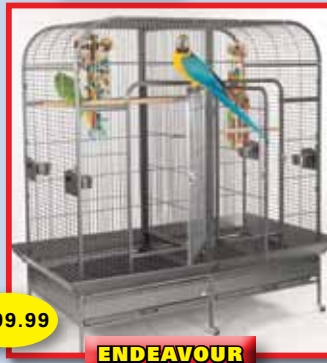
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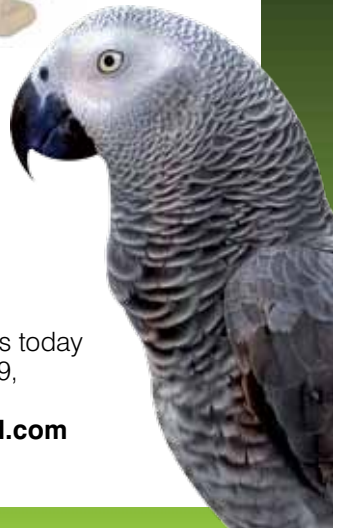
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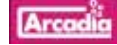


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