



## Birdie Bio!



**Name:** Ruby

**Species:** eclectus parrot

**Age:** 26 years old

**Favorite foods:** peppers, mango, strawberries, pomegranate, and fig

### Ruby's story:

Ruby came to Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary from a horrific hoarding situation. Upon her arrival, this little girl was showing obvious signs of FDB (Feather Destructive Behavior), and although she pulls out her feathers, she is still a beauty! Our Grey-headed parrot, Ayo, agrees as he whistles at Ruby from across the room and visits her every chance he gets.

Ruby has also had an ongoing battle with chronic egg laying. We almost lost her twice from egg-binding related to this condition. Our vet is now giving Ruby a hormone implant to help address this problem. Currently, she needs the implant repeated about every 4 months.

## SPECIES IN FOCUS

### Eclectus Parrot

*Eclectus roratus*

Eclectus parrots are exactly as their name suggests – eclectic! They are a very unique species with many fascinating adaptations that set them apart from other parrots.

Eclectus parrots are found primarily in Melanesia, with additional populations in Sumba and northern Australia. Most strikingly, male and female eclectus parrots are pronouncedly sexually dimorphic, meaning males and females look very different. Males are primarily vivid green with orange beaks, while females are bright red and royal purple with black beaks. These color differences reflect their different roles in rearing chicks. During breeding, female eclectus parrots secure nest cavities in hollow trees while males forage to feed the nesting females and chicks. The green coloration of the males helps them blend into vegetation while feeding. In contrast, the red color of the female helps her advertise ownership of a nesting site when perched at its entrance, but since red is the first color to vanish in dim light, her color helps her hide from predators in the darkness of her nest cavity.



Ruby (red female, current resident) and Wally (green male, past resident) demonstrating the sexual dimorphism of eclectus parrots

Optimal nest cavities are hard to come by on the eclectus parrots' island habitats. Because of this, they have developed a polygynandrous mating system, with females often being cared for and mating with several males, and males often traveling to and feeding several nesting females. They also have a long breeding season, breeding virtually all year long, or as long as females are being well-fed. In human care, this can lead to many issues, such as perpetual breeding behavior and calcium deficiencies, cloacal injury, and egg-binding in females. Females may be extremely intolerant of intruders in their nesting space – in the wild, females sometimes fight to the death over prime nesting sites – which can make life in a human home challenging.

Article by Jane Marlow

### Did you know...?

**Eclectus parrots have unusually long digestive tracts that allow them to digest high-fiber diets.**

# Sanctuary Happenings

## Hollywood Turns 30!

Quite an achievement for a little cockatiel with a big attitude! Hollywood, who turned 30 years old in February, is our Executive Director's companion cockatiel. Christi has been given the honor and privilege of caring for and loving this little man for more than 30 years, and doesn't mind at all that Hollywood prefers the company of other cockatiels, like his very best friend, Buddy.



## Search for Land

Our search for land in Anne Arundel County, MD continues! We are moving forward as a sanctuary primarily for providing lifetime care for cockatoos. In order to build a facility and indoor/outdoor aviaries, we need an appropriate amount of land with the proper zoning. If you know of land for sale in Anne Arundel County that is NOT classified as residential zoning, or know of someone who may be interested in donating a parcel or a portion of that parcel, please contact Christi at [christi@icarusfoundation.org](mailto:christi@icarusfoundation.org). Not only would the kindhearted donor receive a tax deduction, but they would be a part of something really special and more importantly, critically needed!

## Upcoming Events



### Yoga in the Yard - Saturday, May 18, 2019

11am - 1pm Crofton, MD

Please join us at our Yoga in the Yard FUNdraiser with certified Master Yoga Instructor, Padma Wine. You will enjoy an hour of gentle yoga (suited to all levels from beginner to advanced) followed by 30 minutes of guided meditation in a very beautiful and serene garden setting. Everyone had such a wonderful time last September that we decided to hold the event again in the Spring when the garden will be in bloom. Only \$20 per ticket and every penny

of the \$20 goes to help care for the birds who live at our sanctuary! So please consider purchasing a ticket even if you can't make the event. Please bring your mats and towels and any assistance equipment you may need like blocks or straps. Light refreshments will be served. ALL proceeds benefit our sanctuary and our birds!!

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** The location address will be emailed to you after ticket purchase. **\*\***

Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yoga-in-the-yard-tickets-59357855945>

Anyone who wishes to purchase their tickets by check or Paypal, please contact Christi at [christi@icarusfoundation.org](mailto:christi@icarusfoundation.org)

### 6th Annual Greenbelt Pet Expo – Saturday, June 1, 2018

10-2pm Greenbelt, MD

The Expo is sponsored by the City of Greenbelt Animal Control and will be held outside the Greenbelt Dog Park. The city will be shutting down the street for a proper block party. Please drop by our table. We'd love to see you! Address: 7201 Hanover drive Greenbelt MD 20770

### 4th Annual Clarksville Vegan Fest - Saturday, July 20, 2019

10am-6pm Clarksville, MD

Hosted by Roots Market. We are planning on having a table this year so please stop on by and say "Hi!"

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE - We will NOT be bringing any of our sanctuary birds to any of these events.\*\*\***

## Thank You!

Our volunteers are so AWESOME!! They work hard at keeping our birds' enclosures and sanctuary environment clean to ensure the health of our feathered residents. They pick up, deliver and sort through our weekly produce. They make toys and other forms of enrichment for our birds. They provide regular baths and mistings for our birds and socialize with the birds who prefer human interaction, and the list goes on.

I want to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication, compassion and hard work. Each and every one of you brings something unique and wonderful to our organization, and in so doing, enriches our birds' lives. The work we are doing here at our sanctuary would not be possible without YOU! From the bottom of my heart, I thank you!!

- Christi Richter, Executive Director



## Online Store!

We have a new website with a cleaner fresher look that also includes an online store! Currently we have men's crew neck t's, ladies v-neck t's and ladies tank tops available for purchase. ALL proceeds from the purchase of our logo t's benefit our sanctuary! We will be adding more items soon including dreamcatchers and sea glass pendants all handcrafted by our volunteers. Please check out our new website at <https://icarusfoundation.org> and our new storefront at <https://icarusfoundation.org/store?olsPage=products>.

## Welcome, Dallas!

A HUGE thank you goes out to all of our incredible supporters who helped bring Dallas the umbrella cockatoo to our sanctuary!! You really came through for this special little guy by surpassing our fundraising goal! Instead of languishing alone in a cage without human contact, he is now given the choice of being in or out of his cage. He's given lots of attention which he soaks up, and Dallas is being given the love and respect that he deserves but was denied for so many years.



Dallas arriving at the Sanctuary

Dallas, Tinker and Truman were all birds who were left alone in a home after their human passed away or was incapacitated. Please make sure you have a plan for your bird(s) in case something happens to you. Many bird species have lives that can span beyond that of their caregivers. If you are the primary caregiver of a bird, be sure to include instructions for the care of your bird in your will and have a plan for your bird in the case of emergencies that may keep you from caring for your bird.



Dallas enjoying a toy made by volunteer, Donna

Support the birds at the Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary with a tax-deductible donation!  
To donate, visit [IcarusFoundation.org](https://icarusfoundation.org) OR send checks payable to Icarus Foundation, Inc. to

**P.O. Box 3036**

**Annapolis, MD 21403**

# Domestication Complications



Many of us think of the animals that share our homes as **domesticated**, but this term can be misleading. While the word “domesticated” literally means “of the home,” it has a strict scientific definition when it comes to animals. Domesticated animals have become physically and behaviorally different from their wild ancestors, due to years of selective breeding by humans. For example, domestic dogs have been bred to be different from wolves, and domestic chickens are different from their wild ancestors, the red junglefowl. Many animals have been domesticated by humans, including dogs, cats, most farm animals, goldfish, koi, and even insects, such as the honeybee and silk moth. Some strains of domesticated animals are selected for distinctive traits, and over time, **breeds** can develop, like the German shepherd, border collie, and chihuahua.

Simply keeping and raising animals around humans is not enough to consider them domesticated. Domesticated animals are fundamentally different from their wild cousins – if a domestic dog puppy were raised by wild wolves, it would still look and act a bit differently from true wolves. For most parrots, this is not the case. The overwhelming number of parrot species owned and cared for by humans are not domesticated. This means that, while they may be used to living and interacting with humans, they are not significantly different from their wild ancestors, and if they had been raised by wild parrot parents, they would behave exactly like wild animals. Only the budgerigar is different enough from its wild ancestors to be unanimously considered a truly domesticated parrot. All other species of parrot under human care are essentially wild animals. The different types of parrots available on the pet trade are different **species** and **subspecies**, not breeds. Species and subspecies developed through natural selection for behaviors and traits that help them survive in their native environment. A little corella, like Truman (pictured right), is a species of cockatoo, NOT a breed.



Domesticated animals have been bred over time to live alongside humans, fulfilling a need for humans, and thriving in human-driven environments. Non-domesticated animals, such as parrots, have no predisposition to do well in human care. Parrots raised by or around humans may be **well-socialized** to humans (often called “**tame**”) but they aren’t truly domesticated. Even the friendliest, cuddliest parrot has the same needs and natural behaviors as its wild ancestors. Caregivers have to accommodate for these needs and behaviors in the care and housing

of their parrot. In other words, while a domesticated animal may have been selected to live in a human-driven world, parrots need a parrot-driven world in order to truly thrive, and it can be very difficult for humans to recreate this sort of lifestyle in their homes. This makes parrots unsuitable and challenging pets for most people, especially if they have jobs, families, and

other activities that cannot be planned around the bird. Even the best parrot caregivers can struggle to meet all their bird’s complex needs during trying times or lifestyle changes. Chesapeake Parrot Sanctuary understands that parrots under human care face unique challenges to their natural way of living. They do not instinctively know how to live in a human home, and Christi and our team of dedicated volunteers work hard to provide for their natural needs and give them the highest quality of care.

## BIRDS’ WISHLIST

- 🐦 Nut gift bags from [Nuts.com](https://www.nuts.com)  
(we are on their sanctuary list)
- 🐦 [Amazon Wishlist](https://www.amazon.com)