

## Parrot University

Parrots are intelligent and complex creatures with a variety of needs that must be met for them to be successful as a companion pet to their caregiver. At Parrot University our focus is educating owners and potential owners in companion parrot care. We are a retail store offering all the essentials plus lots of “fun” stuff for parrots in the home. All products are thoroughly researched before being made available and are reasonably priced. Our staff is very knowledgeable and can answer any questions an owner may have. We offer the largest selection in the area of toys to challenge, entertain and calm your companion bird.

We do not sell birds but have them available for adoption through Companion Parrots Re-homed (CPR). CPR is in the process of applying for 501(c)3 nonprofit status. Foster and permanent homes are always needed. When someone applies, a home visit is scheduled. A minimum of two classes is required. Further education may be required depending on the applicant’s skill level and the particular bird being sought. All our birds have lost at least one home and we do our best to insure its next home is as good a match as possible.

Parrot University offers numerous classes for the companion parrot owner. Classes offered include:

- Parrot 101 – required for foster and adoption
- Avian Medicine 101 – required for foster and adoption
- Toy Making
- Foraging Lessons
- Cooking for Your Bird
- “Trick” Training for Behavioral Issues and Fun
- Sex and the Single Bird
- Introduction to Applied Behavior Analysis

Karen Cheek Justice is the owner of Parrot University and President and Founder of Companion Parrots Re-homed. After acquiring her first parrot six years ago she has devoted all her time to educating herself about parrots and their care. She received two years training as an avian veterinary technician and attends continuing education classes. A graduate of Dr. Susan Friedman’s “Living and Learning with Parrots” Karen attends her Applied Behavior Analysis lectures whenever possible. She completed a

companion parrot workshop provided by Dr. Friedman and Steve Martin, veteran animal trainer who specializes in Free Flight Shows for Disney and zoos across the US. An advance class is scheduled in April which Karen will attend. At both avian veterinary and companion parrot conferences she has attended lectures and training seminars with Barbara Heideneich, another internationally known animal trainer, author of two excellent books on parrot behavior and training and editor of Good Bird! Magazine.

For three years she has provided consultations on problem avian behavior and caregiver education based on her studies. In the course of doing so, owners were requesting assistance in re-homing their birds. As the number of birds grew Karen decided to become pro-active in educating owners to try and prevent the need for re-homing. Thus Parrot University was born.

Additionally, while attending educational seminars both nationally and internationally, Karen has become involved in conservation projects for parrots in the wild. A member of several conservation groups she has traveled on eco-tours to Panama and Costa Rica. In the coming months she will attend the World Parrot Conference at Loro Parque in Tenerife, Canary Islands as well as return to Panama in February. Late December Karen will travel with The Gabriel Foundation to the Tambopata Natural Reserve in Peru.

Karen's wish is that Parrot University be a resource to parrot lovers to improve their relationship with their companion bird. In addition to books, magazines and dvds available for sale, Parrot U has a library with extensive literature available that the public can read while rocking in comfortable leather and wood rocking chairs she brought from Costa Rica. A world map hangs on one wall with plans to designate place of origin for many of species of parrots. Additionally information is available on reputable rescue/rehab organizations across the US as well as international conservation programs for endangered parrot species.