

STOP Handfeeding parrots

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Stichting Papeg

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Imprinting

**Konrad Lorentz,
nobelprize 1973**



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Imprinting

Imprinting is the term for a learning process at the early state of the development of social interactions that plays an important role in the development of social behavior.

The proces of imprinting is at a young age of the animal/child , within a strict period and essential to survive

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Animal Law The Netherlands

Determined at what age a young animal may be separated from the mother:

- Dog = 7 weeks
- Cat = 7 weeks
- Rabbit = 4 weeks
- Chimpanzee = 4 years

Parrots have to eat completely independent, since July 1st 2014

As result of a campaign by the Consultancy Practice for Birds and the Dutch Parrot Foundation

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Bizarre!
Consider young dogs, cats,
chimpansees

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What are the negative effects?

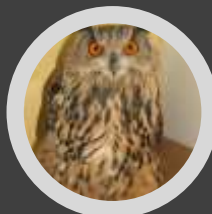
- Imprinting towards humans instead of towards their own species.
- Behavior problems: → more insecure, fear/phobic behavior, biting, feather picking, hormonal behavior. Some problems take years to develop!
- Problem as breeding bird.
- Less viable birds survive.
- Negative effect on the female, producing more eggs than normal → egg quality - life expectancy is low.
- Breeding with breeding pairs that do not raise their own youngsters.

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Separating at a young age from the parents can have major consequences



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Contagious diseases (and Welfare) !? Handrearing parrots

- *More clutches, more babies, less weight as adults*
- *Viability drops of the females and the babies.*
- *Different age groups, more vulnerable for contagious diseases*
- *Overpopulation - stress*
- *Lack of natural selection!*
- *Behavior problems!!*

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Which bird is the female?

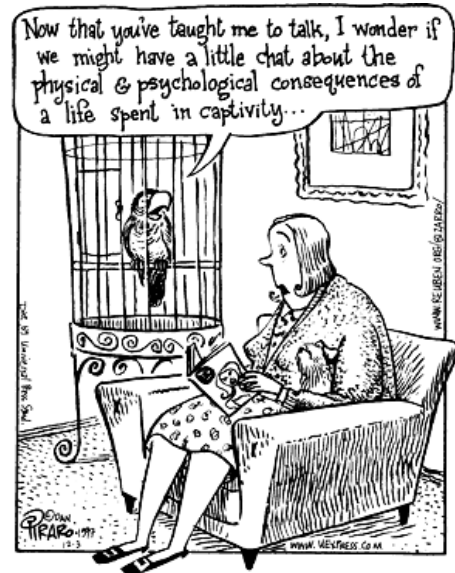
Moulting disorders!



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Let's talk about the psychological consequences of a live in captivity, in a prison?



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Why hand rearing parrots?

- Compensation of management failures! (Malnutrition, Stressfactors, Not tame, No name)
- Females will lay more eggs! \$\$\$
- More eggs/ babies is not in the best interest of the female and not in the best interest of the babies.
- Just \$\$\$\$\$

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Why trade in unweaned baby parrots?

- Birds become more tame, less behaviour problems?

No way = Sales pitch!

- Selling young → profitable, less risk for seller \$\$\$



Wildcaught, 65 + year old amazone on the bicycle

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Fear or no fear, determined by positive/negative experiences with humans

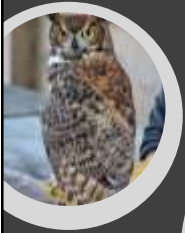


In protected, no hunting area's

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*Fear or no fear,
determined by
positive/negative
experiences with humans*



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Preventing imprinting

Californian Condor project

.....and other re-introduction projects

No human contact when hand rearing is needed.



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The outcome of living in captivity, hand reared and “loved”

- The number of Moluccan Cockatoos in parrot rescue, having severe behavior problems is bigger than the population in nature.
- The number of breeding pairs in the Netherlands 10-15 x ??



How sad can it be?

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The role of aviculture

Most birds in aviculture show behaviour problems:

- No name, not tame
 - Fear, stress
 - Lack of trust
 - Hand rearing!!
 - Malnutrition!!
 - Lack of exercise
 - Lack of privacy
- Cage factor! Dog in kennel!**



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