

# The Shocking Reality of Life for Birds Bred for Pet Stores

See what can go on behind the scenes and why we urge you to end the sale of birds in pet stores in Rhode Island with H7334



**Myth:** Pet stores desperately want you to believe that their birds are happy and healthy, living in clean toy-filled cages, receiving top-notch care as they await purchase.

**Fact:** For a bird raised in a breeding mill, the reality is much different. Birds are subjected to life in dirty cages, with constant deprivation, and can face death due to a lack of veterinary care.



**Myth:** Hand-feeding baby birds is safe and results in friendlier and more affectionate pets.

**Fact:** Hand-feeding creates insecure and anxious parrots, not friendlier pets. The quicker a parrot moves through the production line, the better for breeding mills. Little thought is given to the physical or psychological damage parrots suffer when they are taken from their parents too young and hand-reared for the sake of profit.

**Fact:** Crop burn is a critical condition that develops when chicks are improperly fed formula that is too hot and burns through their crops. Chicks often die despite medical intervention.



**Myth:** Selling solitary birds will result in a stronger relationship between parrots and their people.

**Fact:** Humans typically lack the time to provide adequate social support to pet birds. Social isolation causes anxiety and stress in birds, culminating in issues like screaming, aggression and self-harming behaviors that undermine a parrot's ability to succeed as a pet.



**Myth:** Birds self-mutilate in the wild, too.

**Fact:** Parrots in the wild do not self-mutilate. However, parrots in captivity often harm themselves. This disturbing behavior is seen more frequently with hand-reared parrots who lack adequate social support. It can range from plucking feathers to severe self-mutilation that leaves a parrot with gaping wounds.



**Myth:** Breeding birds for color mutations is perfectly fine.

**Fact:** Color mutations are achieved through extensive inbreeding that impacts genetic health, resulting in drastically reduced life spans due to increased risks of various forms of cancer, tumors, congenital deformities and reproductive issues.

**Fact:**

Municipal shelters will euthanize birds who are not well socialized, bite, or vocalize excessively. **Shelters are overwhelmed. Sanctuaries are overwhelmed. There are simply too many unwanted birds.**

Please support H7334 to end the sale of birds in Rhode Island



Foster Parrots, Ltd. & The New England Exotic Wildlife Sanctuary

Dedicated to the protection of parrots both in captivity and in the wild. Working from the belief that parrots and all wild animals should be free.

#NoCagelsBigEnough

FosterParrots.com

# Please Vote to Stop the Sale of Birds in Pet Stores

The numbers tell the story that pet stores won't: parrots are in crisis!

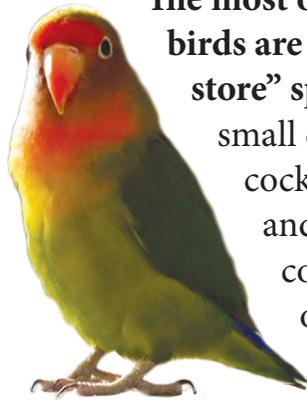
## In 2024, Foster Parrots received requests for the surrender of **1032 unwanted parrots**

- **152** of these parrots were brought into our sanctuary for services
- **83** parrots were adopted into well-screened, new homes
- **43** parrots became permanent sanctuary residents
- **22** parrot relinquishment requests were referred to associate rescue organizations
- **26** parrots were transferred to associate rescue partners for adoption services
- **14** previously adopted parrots were returned to Foster Parrots

**96.3%** of Foster Parrots rescue activity comes from the northeastern states of RI, MA, NH, ME, CT, NJ, NY, VT Of these, **68.90%** hail from the tri-state area of MA, RI and CT.

### Top Reasons for Surrender

Requests from Other Agencies	257	24.90%
Aging and Death of Guardian	226	18.50%
Guardian Health Issues	136	13.20%
Lack of Time, Guilt	131	12.70%
Residential Move	82	7.90%
Behavioral - Aggression	77	7.50%
Overwhelmed Private Rescuer	31	3.00%
Eviction, Loss of Housing	28	2.70%
Child's Pet/Loss of Interest	16	1.60%
Veterinary Care Expense	16	1.60%
Found/Escaped Birds	16	1.50%
Noise	14	1.40%
Divorce	11	1.10%
Desires Sanctuary Placement	11	1.10%
Failure to Bond to Guardian	4	0.40%
Ex-Breeder Birds	4	0.40%
Endowment/Retired Birds	3	0.30%



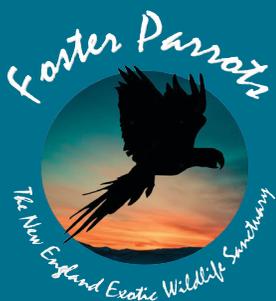
The most often relinquished birds are the smaller, “pet store” species, including small conures, parakeets, cockatiels, lovebirds and Quakers, comprising **61.40%** of all surrender requests.

*Parrots who are surrendered to municipal shelters that are not experienced with birds or bird behavior are often at risk for euthanasia. When parrots bite\* or are otherwise not handleable or well socialized to humans, they will be considered unadoptable and may be euthanized.*

*\* all birds bite!*



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