

No Flock. No Flight. NO FAIR!



Avian Rights Online / Mary Margison

**What does it cost a parrot or any other wild animal caught in the pet trade?
Everything that makes her the wonderful wild creature she is!**

Whether captured in the wild or born in captivity, parrots are not domesticated animals like cats and dogs. They are still wild, undomesticated creatures, at most only a few generations removed from their native habitats. In the wild, parrots live in flocks and can fly many miles each day. They spend hours foraging for a variety of natural foods, socializing, communicating, bathing, preening, establishing nesting territories, mating, excavating nests, and raising their young.

Even with a caretaker's best intentions and efforts, life in captivity is still a shadow of the life that parrots evolved to live in their natural habitats. The average captive parrot spends most of her life confined to a cage and is fed a monotonous, incomplete diet of manufactured bird foods. Many cannot fly because their wings have been clipped to keep them "under control" and to prevent them from hurting themselves in human homes. Few are kept in groups with their own species.

As they reach maturity, the restriction of a parrot's natural desire to fly, forage, raise young, and socialize with other birds of their own species on their own terms often manifests itself in neurotic behavior such as excessive screaming, biting, aggression, feather plucking, and even self-mutilation. Like other wild "exotic pets," many captive parrots find themselves abused, neglected, or displaced as their natural behaviors and needs clash with human expectations.

**Keep the wild in your heart, not in your home.
Make no wild or exotic creature a pet.**



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