

## Imagine Captivity

I cannot say what you would like me to say because parrots haven't been domesticated on a large scale for generations, yet. They still have their raw instincts to fly, forage for the food they want, bathe, preen, bond, mate and raise young naturally.

In captivity we are raising 'dumb' birds because they, in most cases due to modern technology, the babies never even meet their parents. Actually, in most cases the parents are robbed of their eggs as soon as they are laid. What makes the breeder that robs a domestic nest any better than a native that robs a nest in the wild to sell the egg or baby for a \$5 so he can himself live?

If you get right down to it, our present day dogs and cats still run on wild instinct. Today we have what I call "designer" cats. Cats that are expensive breeds that are never allowed outdoors. Should one ever manage to get out the door, they almost immediately hunker down to protect themselves, and to go into a hunting stance.

Humans wonder why dogs, especially certain breeds, attack. Most of the time they attack very young children. Why? Because they see them as prey. An article I read many years ago about a study in to why dogs chase cars drew the conclusion that because a car was a moving object the animal with his UNCONCIOUS instincts saw this moving object as prey.

Almost since recorded history, many has longed to fly. It took many years to build an airplane that would even get off the ground. Our modern day planes are fashioned after birds. How many people dream at night, or daydream in the daytime of simply jumping off of a roof, spreading their arms and feeling the freedom of flying like a bird?

I am very convinced that we humans have degraded these birds by first capturing them in the wild, cutting their wings, and shipping them all over the world to sell as product. Now we have state of the art breeding techniques that cause these "domestic" babies to think they are humans because most, when they first open their eyes see a human, thus instant bonding.

I wish the things I am saying weren't true, but they are. We can sugar coat it in many ways, but I refuse to be moved on my opinions formed from long term work with parrots, especially the ones I've tried to save that were so frustrated that they even plucked the flesh off of their bones. Veterinary medicine, for the most part, now admits that it is not usually caused by any physical illness. They have theories that perhaps the birds have dry skin and are itchy and this is their way of scratching. Others think it's diet, which I, too, believe plays a large part in health issues causing emotional problems. NO ONE knows what or how to feed captive birds. Their

diets in captivity are simply deficient. Yes, we give them seed, which they eat in the wild, but do they eat broccoli, cauliflower, carrots, peas, green beans, etc.? NO, of course not. We humans are doing the best we can, but it's just not good enough. In order to provide a proper diet, researchers would have to study the eating habits of every specie and determine what they eat and then try to produce it in captivity, usually as processed food (pellets).

I apologize if I sound harsh, as that is not my intention. But, I am very passionate about this topic and unless unequivocally proven wrong, will stand by it. I long to educate the public by telling the whole truth about why more and more birds are plucking, mutilating, biting, screaming, etc., in captivity, but most don't really want to hear it, as it would cause personal guilt.

In reality, no one person is guilty, just humanity as a whole. Our predecessors created this problem and now we are left to clean it up. There isn't enough money for research of bird diseases, or to rescue and/or provide sanctuary for the millions of unwanted birds out there. Bird owners lose their cool when they see their bird attacking themselves or their human care givers, screaming, lunging, and so sadly even trying to masturbate with their human bonds. It simply breaks my heart to see a beautiful, intelligent creature that was created to first, fly, then in doing so provide for itself, only to have it butchered and forbidden to fly and then we say our birds are not captive because we leave their cage doors open always.

If it were me and someone gave me the most beautiful house, all the toys and goodies one could ever hope to have, but tell me I could never leave the building, I'd go insane, too.

I only hope that these words will have a positive affect on you and help you realize the true nightmare we are facing now and in the future. There will never be enough places for these unwanted birds, and in fact, in many areas of the country they are already being put to sleep, sometimes in mass.

Thank you, if you have come this far in reading this little book. It is my hope that you will be one of the people who really cares enough to look deep inside yourself and put yourself in the bird's place and feel what it is feeling.

Mary Bradford