

How To Apply

1. Fill out the adoption application completely. We will not accept your application if any fields are left blank. Your application will not be sent to our Adoption Committee if you do not provide your complete name, address, phone number, and email address or if you do not completely answer all questions.

2. Be specific about the types of birds you have experience with. Your previous experience with birds, as well as your current birds, will help us identify an appropriate bird for you.

3. Be specific in your answer about what is toxic or unhealthy for birds. If you do not know, find out. We will not adopt birds to people who do not take the time to identify substances that are toxic to birds.

4. Please list all contact information for your avian veterinarian (name, address, phone number) so we can contact them as a reference. If you do not have an avian veterinarian because you do not currently have a bird, please list your regular veterinarian (if you have other pets). If you have no pets and cannot supply a veterinarian reference, please call us to discuss this once you have submitted your application. This does not mean your application will be declined. It means we need to talk to you to be sure the bird will receive proper veterinary care once he goes home. If you currently have birds but cannot supply a veterinary reference, this will be considered when processing your application and very likely will affect our decision.

5. Please also list contact information for at least one character reference. We prefer you supply someone in a leadership role in the community, such as an employer, teacher, physician, pastor/minister, etc, but you may use a family member or friend if you do not have a reference of this type. A strong character reference would be very beneficial, especially if you don't have a veterinarian reference.

6. Once we receive your application, we will contact references and send your application to our Adoption Committee for approval. This process can take several weeks, depending on how busy your veterinarian and other references are. Do not expect to hear from us immediately regarding your application. One way to speed up the process is to come out and meet the birds. This does not guarantee your application will be approved, but it will help us get an idea of what bird would be right for you and how you would handle having a bird.

7. We will adopt birds to applicants who live within approximately a two hour radius of our rescue. It is time consuming and expensive for us to travel long distances for a home visit prior to adoption, and it is time consuming and expensive for you to visit our rescue to meet the birds before adopting one. If you live more than two hours away, this does not automatically disqualify you. If you have outstanding references or experience, we may be able to waive the distance limitation. We will charge 40 cents per mile to visit any homes further than one hour from our rescue.

How Adoptability Is Determined

The Adoption Committee of Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc., considers the applicant's length of experience and what types of birds they have experience with. While we have some birds that are very tame and sociable and will do well in most homes, we also have some birds that have been neglected or abused for years and have physical and/or psychological concerns. These birds will only be considered for applicants who have the experience necessary to work with the bird. We also have special needs birds that will require more frequent veterinary care, in which case we would need to take the applicant's financial status into account to be sure the applicant could provide the necessary care.

When a bird comes to Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc., we get to know the bird before she is made available for adoption. Once we understand the bird's personality, the Adoption Committee reviews all approved applications to find the best fit for both the bird and the applicant. When we think we have found a suitable fit, we contact those applicants to schedule a time for them to come in to meet the bird. This allows us to get a feel for how their personalities would mesh before making our final decision.

There is no waiting list for birds. We match birds and applicants, so while one applicant may immediately be matched to a bird, another may have to wait for their perfect match to come along. Our Adoption Committee does not consider names or dates of applications; each application is reviewed each time a new bird arrives at our rescue in order to find the best match.

Important Notes:

If you have little to no experience with birds, do not expect to adopt a large bird. We believe that people should start with smaller birds to learn how to care for and interact with birds before attempting larger birds.

Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc., reserves the right to approve or deny any application for adoption based on the information given to us by the applicant or their references.

A Message to New Bird Owners

It is the responsibility of Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc., to educate and inform each applicant on responsible bird ownership, regardless of experience. We also let the adoptive families know we are available to answer questions at any time after adoption.

Birds are very different from other pets. A dog is not left inside a cage 24 hours per day, but some birds are. A goldfish will not begin to mutilate itself if it doesn't get enough attention or if it is bored, but a bird will. All birds come to us with baggage; some have years of unhappiness to work through. It is our responsibility to work with the birds and with their adoptive families to provide the best possible situation for the bird.

In general, the larger the bird, the louder they are. Birds do not understand that you may want to hear the TV or someone on the phone instead of their screaming for attention. They don't care if there are babies or small children that need to nap throughout the day. No amount of

behavior training will ever keep a bird from vocalizing. They may scream because they are bored or want attention, but they may also scream because they are happy. If you adopt a large bird, you will have to deal with this every day.

If you live in an apartment, condo, or townhouse, don't expect to adopt a large bird, no matter how much experience you have or how quiet the bird may seem at the rescue. There are many quieter birds that would do fine in these settings, and we will match you up with this kind of bird instead.

Birds live a long time. Cats may live 20 years, and dogs might not live more than 10-15 years, but large birds can live 100 years. Even smaller birds generally live 20-40 years, so this is not a commitment to be taken lightly.

Please see the following links for more information about birds. These sites will help you determine if a bird is right for you and also if you are right for a bird.

www.mytoos.com

<http://www.parrotcareinfo.com/parrotinfo.htm>

<http://www.toolady.com/links/index.html>

<http://www.silvio-co.com/cps/articles/1999/1999lwilson1.htm>

It is the goal of Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc., to match each bird with the home that will be the safest and allow the bird the best chance for happiness and physical and psychological wellbeing.

For the health and safety of the birds, we do not ship! Please do not even ask.

Fine Feathered Friends Sanctuary, Inc.
 1570 County Highway A
 Edgerton, WI 53534

Adoption Application

Name:		Age:	
Email Address:			
Driver's License Number:			
Spouse/Significant Other:		Driver's License Number:	
Is this person aware of the tentative adoption?			
Child's Name:		Age:	
Child's Name:		Age:	
Child's Name:		Age:	
Child's Name:		Age:	
Child's Name:		Age:	
Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Home Phone:		Work Phone:	
Best time to call/at what number?			
Occupation:		Spouse's Occupation:	
If your present relationship were to change, who would keep the bird?			
Do all members in your household know you are planning to adopt a bird?			
Who will be the primary caretaker?			
How many hours daily will the bird be left alone?			
Type of Dwelling:	House	Condo	Apartment
Other			
Do you rent or own?			
If you rent, do you have a landlord's permission to have a bird?			
Please include a letter from your landlord giving his/her permission with this application.			
Does anyone in your home smoke?			
Do you have any other birds?		What species?	
Do you have dogs?		How many/what breeds?	
Do you have cats?		How many?	
Do you have any other pets?		How many/what kinds?	

**Do you have any previous experience with birds?
If so, please include what species you have dealt with**

Please provide details about your previous bird experience.

What type of parrot are you looking to adopt?

Will you accept a handicapped bird?

If you travel, who will take care of your bird when you are away?

Do you have an avian vet?

Please include your vet's name, address, and phone number.

Please list the name, address, and phone number of at least one character reference.

How do you plan to train your parrot?

Are you aware that hookbills have a normal urge to chew wood, buttons, jewelry, furniture, molding and any other thing that may get in the way of their potentially destructive beaks?

All parrots have the capability of talking, but not all will talk. Some birds will scream in loud pitches, continuously. They may just need attention, food or love. They may also have behavioral habits that could be hard to break. How would you handle these situations?

Parrots can require a lot of attention and maintenance. Medical attention and properly feeding the bird can be expensive. Have you considered this?

If you were to move out of state, would you contact FFFS as a courtesy?

Under what circumstances would you not be able to keep the bird? (Check all that apply)

Divorce/Separation

New Baby

New Job

Allergies

New Relationship

Illness

Preferring one person over another	Other (please explain)
<p>Why do you feel you are qualified to adopt a bird?</p>	
<p>Would you permit inspection of your home prior to an adoption?</p>	
<p>Would you allow a post-adoption visit to your home by a FFFS volunteer?</p>	
<p>How would you quarantine your bird?</p>	
<p>Describe signs of illness in a bird.</p>	
<p>Certain materials used as a cage liner could kill a bird. List safe cage liners.</p>	
<p>Describe some of the dangers that a bird might be exposed to in any household.</p>	
<p>Vitamin deficiencies can be hazardous to your bird's health. It is important to provide your bird with a wide variety of foods. What foods would you feed to an exotic bird?</p>	
<p>What are some of the foods that are toxic to birds?</p>	
<p>Where will the bird's cage be located?</p>	

How is the proper cage size determined for each bird?

What materials are safe for perches?

Why is it necessary to have different diameter perches?

List some toxic household cleaners and plants.

FFFS reminds you that in the event you cannot keep your bird, you must call us. Please alert us if you feel you cannot keep this bird. We have made a commitment with the donor that must be honored at all times.

Adopter's Signature:

Date: