

Bird - Shelter Ambassador Finds a Home!

By Shauna Hill

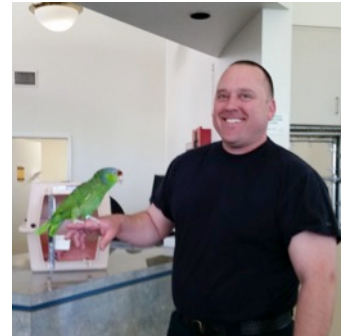


Life for an animal living in a shelter can be scary and uncertain. Some fortunate enough to land in a no-kill shelter can languish there for years without ever having a loving home of their own. This is the story of one amazon parrot who spent seven years at the East Bay Animal Shelter and how she found a home.

Bird, as she was affectionately named, came to the shelter as a stray picked up by Officer Brad. She liked some of the staff but was especially fond of Officer Brad. She spent time in the front office with the staff and they tried their best to tend to her needs and give her attention. It was a challenge for the busy office staff of a crowded shelter to spend much time with her, and Officer Brad spent a lot of time in the field. Also, not many people come to a shelter wanting to adopt a parrot, so Bird became a de facto shelter resident. Eventually the shelter realized Bird needed a stable home of her own.

Bird was no stranger to Mickaboo. I first met her when I started teaching Mickaboo's Basic Bird Care classes at the East Bay Animal Shelter in 2014. A stunning lilac-crowned amazon, she had her own perch in the front office where she could see all the goings on from a comfortable distance. Bird helped Mickaboo when we were trying to catch a loose amazon in Alameda County. She and Office Brad made the trip to where the amazon had been sighted, and she patiently waited in her carrier hoping to lure the lost amazon down into a waiting cage. She was a trooper and we certainly appreciated her efforts! We knew she was a very special amazon.

When the East Bay Animal Shelter called Mickaboo in February 2015 for help with finding her a home, we rallied to locate one. Foster homes are always a challenge as we never seem to have empty ones. Thankfully, a wonderful volunteer, Shelley Parks, stepped up to help. Operation "Find Bird a Home!" was now a go! In April 2015, Bird said goodbye to the shelter staff and journeyed with Shelley to the first home she has had in many years.

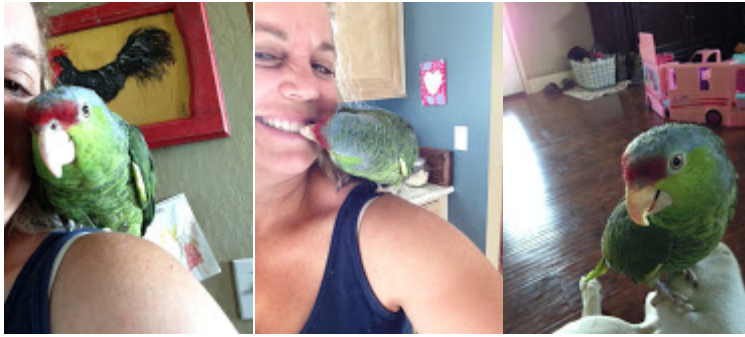


Officer Brad says farewell to Bird



Shelley's daughter, clearly happy about the feathered family addition.

I checked in with Shelley recently for an update on how Bird is doing in her new home. She said Bird won the hearts of everyone in the family, including the family dog, and has become a permanent member of their family! They have renamed her Cha Cha. A truly happy ending for this former shelter ambassador who, as you can see from the following pictures, is enjoying her retirement very much.



Cha Cha hanging out with Shelley. She obviously wants Mom to look her best for their selfie in the middle picture.

Thank you to the East Bay Animal Shelter staff for caring for Cha Cha so well while making sure she found a home and family to love her.

People who can provide foster or adoptive homes for birds like Cha Cha are critical to Mickaboo's ability to continue to help them. Learn more about how you can foster or adopt at our website: mickaboo.org. From there, you can download an adoption/foster [application form](#) and see when we offer our free bird care [classes](#) .