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For the Love of Grace
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Because of compassion, people involved in animal rescue often step out to support different types of animals than they normally work with in a specific rescue organization. And thank goodness they do. There is a mutual respect between people who care about animal welfare. Some of our Mickaboo volunteers have been involved with foster parenting of children, cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes, and turtles, among others. Sometimes, rescue organizations band together for joint fund-raisers or educational opportunities. What these Good Samaritans share in common is the heart for humane and loving treatment of animals – human compassion.

Thank goodness for the kind cat rescuer and Mickaboo supporter who discovered Grace, an

Eclectus female parrot and her two cage mates, all about 25 years old, living in squalid conditions in the back of a pet store. The loving person of whom I write stepped out of her comfort zone with cats after discovering the grim conditions these parrots had been subjected to for a quarter of a century.

Kept away from people, hidden from the public, and starved for human attention, Grace lived with two other Eclectus parrots in squalid conditions because they were feather pickers, unsightly to many humans, and thus, hidden away. While they had basic food and water, these intelligent parrots lacked sanitary conditions, proper food, vegetables, and fruit, toys, and proper lighting. These three girls, amazingly, were in their twilight years, as Eclectus parrots in captivity don't often live much past 25 years, even given love, proper nutrition, and basic parrot essentials. Without these parrot necessities, these flock animals can become ill, depressed, and in late 2012, sadly, two of them died not knowing loving, compassionate care.

Through persistence, in January of 2013, working in conjunction with Mickaboo, our Good Samaritan finally convinced the owner to release Grace to her. She brought Grace home, provided a sanitary and loving environment, and allowed Grace to experience love and compassion.

With a new lease on life, Grace seemed to be recovering in health and in spirit. She was transferred to a Mickaboo foster home, and then suddenly, died. Her rescuer and caregiver, who chooses to remain anonymous, was heartbroken, together with other Mickaboo volunteers who knew about Grace and her will to live despite her circumstances.

Grace is buried on a mountainside in Colfax, at the home of a friend she came to know. Here is a little of what this wonderful cat rescuer had to say about Grace after her passing.

"...She seemed perfectly happy. One just couldn't help but love her. Sweet, sweet dear bird. I'm not able to talk about Grace without crying yet. I've become very attached to her. Her name fit her perfectly. She was so brave. So much promise. So accepting. She didn't seem the least bit ill. Her appetite was phenomenal, her demeanor was interested, curious, and a bit humorous. It's just been so sad... Hard to fathom. Tears streaming again. With a heavy, heavy heart."

Though you remain anonymous and unknown to me and many of us at Mickaboo, I feel I know your heart because I share it, as so many of us do. From the bottom of our hearts, here at Mickaboo, thank you, fellow rescuer, on behalf of Grace and the others you worked so valiantly to save.