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A different kind of adoption event takes flight in Mount Laurel

By Melissa Hanejko, correspondent

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Birds of a feather flock together. This weekend, birds and bird-lovers alike will be flocking to Mount Laurel Animal Hospital for a high-flying event. Get in on the ground floor as Mount Laurel Animal Hospital hosts its first ever Avian Adoption Day on Sunday.

Mount Laurel Animal Hospital is certainly not new to the world of adoption events. The veterinary center works with upward of 70 local animal rescues, and has hosted its share of meet-and-greets for pets of the four-legged variety. But this time, Mount Laurel is spreading its wings to host its inaugural event for rescued birds.

While cat and dog rescue organizations are plentiful and popular with adopters, bird rescue groups are much less common. But it's not because they don't need the help as much as their furry counterparts.



[For the Love of Birds](#), a nonprofit organization in New Jersey, rescues, rehabilitates and re-homes companion birds. The group rescues birds of all sizes and breeds, many of which have experienced neglect. While birds are a popular pet, they often suffer when new owners are under the assumption that birds are low-maintenance pets.

In reality, birds require as much research and care as a cat or dog. And the bond between bird and owner can be just as rewarding.

Each bird has its own unique personality, and For the Love of Birds seeks to match each bird with a suitable family. As each bird lives in a volunteer foster home, the rescue gets to know the birds well. There is Koko, a 13-year-old cockatoo who loves being pampered. His adoption listing described him as an affectionate boy who loves spending time out of his cage, eating with his family, playing and taking showers. Then there's Grace, an 8-year-old dove conure who is quiet, calm and easy to handle. In between, you'll find finches, African greys, cockatiels, and parakeets of all colors, ages and personalities.

On Sunday from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., bird enthusiasts as well as those new to birds are invited to meet volunteers from For the Love of Birds, along with a few of their feathered friends.

The informative event will provide education regarding the care and maintenance of companion birds, and can help potential adopters decide if a bird is the right pet for your family.

If you think your family is ready to go to the birds, the rescue volunteers will be on hand to discuss what type of birds would be the best option. In addition to the birds that will be in attendance, guests can view photos and profiles of the adoptable birds in foster homes. Though on-site adoptions will not be available, interested adopters can complete an adoption application.

Already have a pet bird? Stop by to meet some fellow bird lovers, and pick up a new treat or toy for your friend. Proceeds will benefit For the Love of Birds. All attendees will receive a special gift from the animal hospital, located at 220 Mt. Laurel Road.