

Your Longevity Story

Category: Companion Parrot Lifestyle

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My birthday is next week. It's nothing startling, just another number in a row of numbers of which I do not know the last value in that row. Not knowing what my last number is allows me to respect and appreciate every day. I really do believe every day is a good day. And I believe the only regret I'll have when I do find out that last number will be the numbers I wasted along the way.

There's another number that sits in my head and heart. It's the number of years my parrots will survive without me to care for them. I don't worry about our human children. They have grown independent, viable, strong and into adults fully capable of functioning without me. Granted they will be bored without my humor, confusion and forgetful ways, but they'll find other preoccupations to my missing ridiculous nature. Our parrots, on the other hand, will never grow independent of their need of me, us and our flock. I know that number is around 30 years from now. And it's that longevity story that drives the work I do, the days I spend and the care and attention I give to every day. I won't use negative words, and I won't bandy them about either. I have today to do great things. I can't let anything less than great into the day.

I have 20 years to get things straightened out in the companion parrot world. That's how I see it. Because no matter how much planning, financing and legal paperwork I put into the long term care of our flock after I am gone, things can still go wrong for them. Chaos Theory and Probability say it is so. I have 20 years to make things better for and around companion parrot care and understanding so when I leave this earth there will be improvement for them after I'm gone. Their longevity story requires not only my efforts and concern today, but my efforts and concerns about tomorrow.

FlockCall and all the functions it will serve in the coming years is in some part a selfish endeavor. I want to build something big, impactful, dynamic, flexible and always growing to further insure my companion parrot's future. This is why I have a hard time understanding why the issue gets lost among companion parrot flocks and parrot lovers. Most likely your parrot will out live your longevity. I believe I will out live Kirby our IRN and the cockatiels, but Felix and Snickers and Butters, most likely not. It's the longevity story we all have in our flocks. The math is different, but the results are the same. We will not only leave them behind, but we will leave behind a world without us. Why wouldn't we want to insure better understanding, better rhetoric, better mandates, better practices, better rescue, better sanctuary, better laws and that elusive better respect and empathy for companion parrots?

I put in countless hours in the effort. I don't see it as work I see it as a mission for Felix, Butters, Snickers and all those with a longevity story they will be powerless to write for themselves. If we spent as much time on companion parrot advocacy as we do sharing photos, recipes, articles, debates and gossip online, I could shave 10 years off the work I've got written down for the next 20 years. And yes, I have a 20 year plan. Priorities get clear when we honestly look at our longevity story. We waste less time, the more we realize the less time we have left. We might just do something meaningful with our time rather than just try to "kill time".

Fair warning to all concerned, I'm only on Facebook to find Action Heroes and those who are interested in really learning, doing, sharing and changing the social and ethical status of companion parrots. I'm here with Felix to shed light, and gather up the troops if you will. I'm serious, this isn't a game of I'm right and you're wrong. This isn't me trying to find offense inside the currents of social media. This is a project with serious intent, serious people already involved and serious investments of time and money now and in the future.

We all have a longevity story. And in our own story runs the longevity stories of our companions, friends and family. You can't add to the longevity. You can only change the storyline, and that changes the end of your book. Maybe it's because I'm a writer that it all just makes sense. We are all writing our life stories, and with every line you write in deed, word and thought you are defining your last chapter. Our last chapter, is their first chapter.

Together we can give every parrot everywhere, a happy home!

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