

Lou Mansolillo

From: Judy Salvadore <judysalvadore@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2025 12:12 AM
To: Rep. Solomon, Joseph J. Jr.; Rep. O'Brien, William W.; Rep. Caldwell, Justine A.; Rep. Casey, Stephen M.; Rep. DeSimone, Anthony J.; Rep. Finkelman, Alex S.; Rep. Kennedy, Brian Patrick; Rep. Newberry, Brian C.; Rep. Paplauskas, Christopher G.; Rep. Phillips, Robert D.; Rep. Potter, Brandon C.; Rep. Sanchez, Enrique George; Rep. Serpa, Patricia A.; Rep. Spears, Tina L.; Rep. Voas, Brandon T.
Cc: House Corporations Committee
Subject: Please support House bill 5214 to ban the sale of parrots at pet stores from a breeder or broker

Dear House Corporations Committee Members,

Please support **House bill 5214** to ban the sale of parrots at pet stores from a breeder or broker. Parrots are **wild** birds and these magnificent, highly intelligent creatures should not be bred in captivity by humans to be sold, or captured and sold. It's not acceptable to sell baby elephants, why would parrots be any different? Wild animals belong in the wild!

Parrots are loud, like to flock, need to fly and they live for up to 80 years which many people do not know when purchasing a parrot from a pet store. Most people do not want a flock in their home, so they purchase a single parrot. Living alone and stuck in a cage are cruel conditions for a parrot, and lead to behavioral and health problems which result in rehoming, or death from prolonged social isolation.

As a nearly 30-year animal shelter volunteer, I see how animals are trotted down to the shelter when a family member dies. Dogs don't live up to 80 years, but parrots do. RI has many animal shelters and private rescues to handle the large amount of unwanted cats, dogs and rabbits. Most municipal shelters are not equipped to house parrots and provide the proper environment. There are only two parrot rescues in RI and they are struggling with the large number of surrender requests. Instead of breeding or buying parrots, pet stores should be working with parrot rescues to rehome a rescue's homeless parrots. Sadly, most parrots end up being passed from home to home during their long lives.

This paragraph was posted on Facebook on December 7, 2024:

Last year, in 2023, Foster Parrots received 769 requests for the surrender of parrots. This year, by November 1, we had already broken 1,000 requests. Unfortunately, we are not the only parrot rescue organization experiencing these untenable numbers. Parrot Rescues and even Animal Control organizations across the country are being inundated with parrot surrender requests, hoarding situations, and guardians dying without a plan in place for their birds. Often, the homes we receive requests from have multiple birds. This year, more so than others, we have seen an enormous uptick in the number of birds needing assistance from a single home. This is no longer just a "parrot problem." It's an unwanted parrot crisis that is primarily being driven by parrot breeders and big box pet retailers who continue to pump birds into the pet trade, while surrender requests flood in at untenable levels; rescue organizations simply cannot keep up.

This is an excerpt from *The Rescue Community & The Unwanted Parrot Crisis* by Foster Parrots sanctuary director Amanda Coleman.

So why do parrot retailers need to buy birds from breeders or brokers when there are so many homeless and unwanted birds? Pet stores can work with a rescue to rehome parrots. There are a lot less homes that want parrots versus homes that want cats or dogs – how many people do you know that share their home with a parrot? Adoption gives a parrot a second chance, does not contribute to overbreeding of captive parrots, prevents parrot "puppy mills" and stops depleting the wild parrot populations. A parrot rescue makes sure the

adopter has a full understanding of living with a parrot (behavioral needs, veterinary care, etc.), the required long-term commitment and a rehoming plan in case of a guardian's death.

It is unfair and unsustainable to continue breeding and selling these intelligent, flighted wild animals for a life of trauma as they are passed from home to home. Captive parrots have already lost their freedom: please, support this bill.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email.

Best,

Judy Salvadore

Saunderstown, RI