

Does Your Significant Other Like Parrots?

Find out what BirdChannel Forum members had to say on whether their significant others like their pet birds

From the BirdChannel Editors

Courtesy Daniela Slanina, California

Sometimes non-bird people learn to love pet birds, and sometimes they don't. My wife and I are both parrot fanatics! We are both actively involved in rescues, conservation and, of course, our own flock! I know it has made our relationship stronger than it would have been.

– kitoandtupismom (K&T Dad)

I don't think I could be with a person who didn't share some sort of passion or respect for parrots. I've even joked with my boyfriend that he comes second to our Senegals, Odin and Gus Gus. The funny part is that he knows it's true! He loves playing with his feathered kids just as much as me. Now my only complaint is that he doesn't do enough of the related chores!

– MtStar

Being a bird lover (or at least someone who enjoys the company of birds) will be a requirement to my boyfriend/husband.

– macawlover2

My fiancé loves Junebug (lovebird), and he hates Cadillac (Congo African grey parrot). Maybe "hate" is a strong word; he doesn't like the bird because the bird is not bonded to him and bites him all the time and will not let him hold him. He adores Junebug and told me if we ever split up, I can take the big one but he's keeping JuneJune! We have agreed I can have only one more bird, so I have to take my time and make the decision. I wish I could have more but space is a huge issue for us. I'd like another medium-large bird but I don't know... I don't think I could be with someone who didn't have a love for these animals I do. My son, who is only 2, also adores birds. Seems to think every bird is "JuneJune" or will talk to him. He will see a wild bird outside and put his arm out and call for it.

– luvmycadillac

I was a bird lover (wild or caged) since childhood. My husband didn't know a parrot from a robin or even a mixed bred dog from a pedigree breed. In fact he was somewhat fearful of my family cockatiel when we married. And then when I was late for our wedding because I was petting some cockatoos in the lobby where we were married ... he soon learned to come to know what a parrot was and to identify all the different species of parrots. He became so involved in bringing Fergie into our home: learning along with me, going to the vets, reading behavior books. In fact he would always look on Amazon.com to find the next parrot behavior book. It was really a bonding thing between Fergie, he and I. So don't rule out people who don't think they like birds or don't know about birds. They can become the most avid of enthusiasts. I think all the research we did prior to finding Fergie and bringing her home was kinda neat for both of us learning about parrots. One look at Fergie and he was as captured as I was. It was such an exciting day when we brought her home for both of us. And I give my husband a lot of kudos, he has been bitten and chased and cursed by her in the beginning, and he just kept building the trust with her. He is quite proud that he can handle her now just like me. She calls for him more than me. So don't rule out those non bird lovers, they just don't know they're bird lovers. Even my father, who does not like birds, has to admit he has found a new appreciation for parrots and what they bring to our lives.

– ladyhawke50

I had Willow and Toodles long before I even met my husband, so he knew that I was carrying along birdy baggage. He likes birds and is interested in them. Being mostly deaf, he cannot fully enjoy the song of the wild birds in the nearby woods, but he is also not as bothered by Willow's morning calls (ahem). Willow has violently attacked my husband a couple of times when we were first married and has taken advantage of his (he will even admit it) fear of her. Toodles doesn't care one way or the other, she can get along with anyone at this stage of her life. But my husband does fear a bite from her. He is on blood thinners for his heart and bruises and bleeds very easily and profusely, so he is not willing to take a risk. My husband has taken an interest in birds in general because of my interest and in parrots specifically, just to make me happy, and I think that is very nice of him to do so. He has learned a great deal about them and willingly discusses them with me all the time.

– ickybird

Shane liked birds before I did! He grew up with a quaker and a cockatiel and had always said he wanted a bird. I told him no way! But then I got the bird bug, and now we both love parrots! He is just as enthusiastic about them as I am! When we take them in public and to the groomers, he always has to be the one to carry them if we just bring one with us. His mom and stepdad always say they will steal our birds because they also love parrots, and his dad likes them too! His dad's grandparents had one, nobody knows what kind, and man did that bird have a foul mouth. So we hear all kinds of funny stories about their old parrots!

– brilliantfids

He has learned to deal with my animal loving ways. He likes Yoshi now though.

– ditty

When my boyfriend and I first got together, he hadn't been around birds really. He didn't know how they actually are. Sophie fell in love with him almost right away, and he warmed up to them quickly. Now he shares his food with them (even when I'm not around), lets Sophie help him with stuff like taking a shower, etc. His only issue with them is the going potty on him or his stuff. I'm obviously so used to it, it doesn't bother me, but he definitely isn't. I'm glad we've been able to break him into liking parrots.

– sophiebear

Sad to say, Asha and my wife have a distinctly adversarial relationship. Perhaps relationship is too strong a word; at least they share the same home. Asha is extremely jealous of my wife and the wife is scared to death of Asha. Whenever I am in a room with Asha and my wife enters the room, Asha goes into full display mode. She starts squawking, pacing on top of her cage and fanning her flight feathers. The wife is scared to death that if she gets anywhere near Asha she will be sliced and diced by that can opener in the middle of Asha's face. I try to tell her that she is giving exactly the reaction Asha is looking for, but it does no good. I just have to be in the middle and be shared by two beautiful women. If only I could teach Asha to do laundry.

– thetim53

He "likes" them, but he doesn't "love" them. He certainly doesn't mind them, but he doesn't go out of the way to do anything for them.

– Lorek

My husband Elliott was not a parrot lover when we married, but he is slowly learning to love and appreciate them more now.

– sashagirl