

Three is Definitely Not a Crowd: An Adoption Success Story

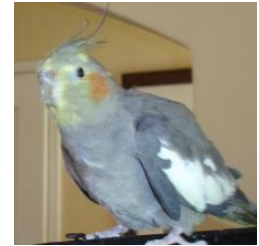
By Valentine Lewis and Aron Walker



Sunny & Piper

Aron was like many bird owners who loved having birds while growing up (parakeets, in fact). She now had one cockatiel, Charlie, which she had purchased from a breeder when the bird was only 2 months old. With the upcoming birth of her child Aron was concerned that she would not be able to give the time that Charlie had grown accustomed to. Instead of going to a breeder a second time, she decided to adopt.

Through Mickaboo she found Piper. Initially Aron became a foster parent and Piper was her first. Piper, who was found outside, was possibly raised in a garage, was not tame, and was about 6 months old when she came to Aron. It took several weeks to get Piper to step up to Aron's finger and several more before she was completely comfortable in her new surroundings. Piper immediately took to Charlie, but unfortunately, Charlie didn't want anything to do with Piper at first - so Aron then needed a companion for the companion.



Piper

Introducing Sunny! Sunny was Aron's second foster. Sunny had also been found outside and had stitches on her back. She was also overweight and losing feathers on her legs and under her wings due to some hormonal issues that are slowly getting under control. Sunny was mostly finger-trained and soon became an affectionate addition to Aron's rapidly growing family. Sunny since has really taken to Aron's daughter, Lola. In the morning after Sunny gets her medication for the under-wing infection, she then sits on Lola's shoulder and Lola walks very slowly to the living room and sits with her, or helps her back to her cage.



Lola & Sunny

These days Piper and Charlie eat together. Sunny has a special diet so she has to eat on her own, and the three tiels spend time in the same cage very happily. Aron always wondered after having gotten Charlie so young how it would be to have a bird that may have been through some traumatic times - that is one of the reasons she wanted to foster. She never imagined that she would "need" three birds, but now they all watch TV together, and when they take a trip, all 5 of them go together. Aron wants to start fostering again when her daughter is a bit older and can also be a part of the process. Lola is a Mickaboo enthusiast at only 2 years of age!