

GOCBS NEWS LINE



Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society
3604 North 45th Street
Omaha, NE 68104

Don't Forget!



August Meeting
is at the Picnic

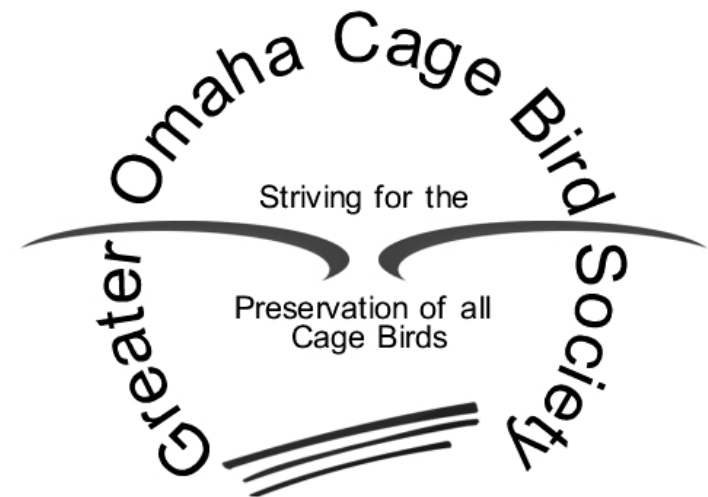
Saturday
August 20



Important Info Inside:

Summer Picnic & Meeting
Saturday
August 20, 2011

July & August 2011



2011 GOCBS Officers

President	Rick Kling renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686
Vice President	Michelle Mutchler-Burns gopack8763@aol.com	(712) 322-1448
Secretary	Glenn Morrison	
Treasurer	Marcia Delehoy plbs@qwestoffice.net	(402) 453-5235
Membership	Ginger Bostwick glbostwick@cox.net	(402) 932-5866
Newsletter	Elsa Ashelford pandora1641@yahoo.com	(402) 309-0683

2011 GOCBS Officer Trustees

Karen Sward		(712) 352-3646
Bill Owens	earlowens21@yahoo.com	(402) 218-6026
Vance Delehoy	plbs@qwestoffice.net	(402) 453-5235

Adoption - Placement

Bill Owens		(402) 218-6026
Ed Larson		(402) 812-8669
Michelle Mutchler-Burns (Iowa)		(712) 322-1448

2011 GOCBS Fair Coordinator

Rick Kling	renotoo402@cox.net	(402) 933-5686
Carla Owens (Assistant)	xenagreenzoo@yahoo.com	(402) 218-6028

Presidents Letter - August 2011

Dear GOCBS Members,

Can you believe it's August already and next month is our fair. This year has had a lot of challenges and changes for our club.

Last month's newsletter was derailed due to computer problems so we are combining July and August.

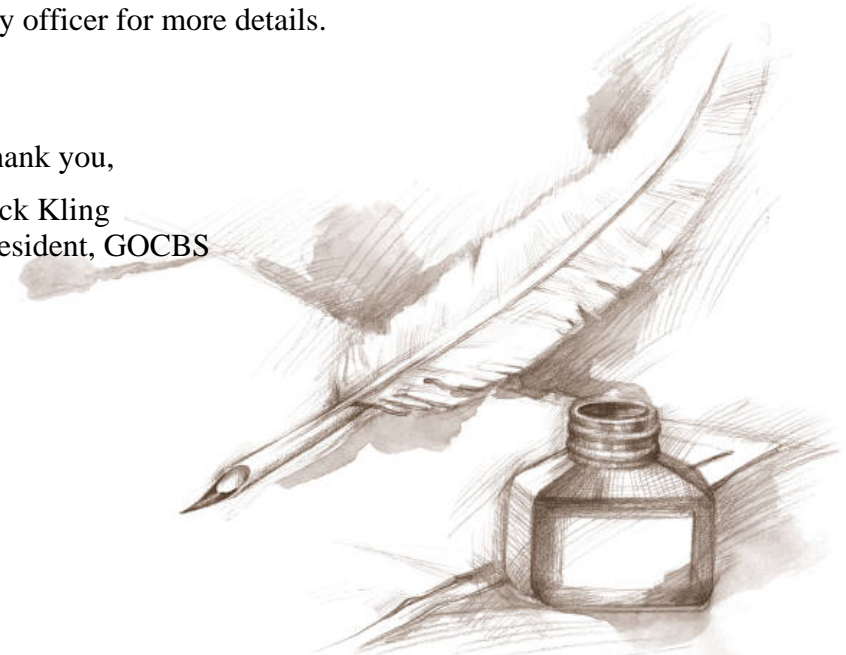
Thank you to all of our volunteers that were at our open house and their feathered friends. There was a good variety of birds having their pictures taken. They will soon be posted on the website for everyone to see.

There is no meeting on August 21, this month we are having our summer picnic on Saturday, August 20, times and directions are in this newsletter. Hosting this event is Vance and Marcia at their home. The club will provide burgers, brats and refreshments. Please bring a side dish and desert is always optional.

Volunteers and donations are now needed for our fall fair; contact any officer for more details.

Thank you,

Rick Kling
President, GOCBS



Bird Biting: Why They Do It and How to correct It

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

A common behavior problem reported by bird owners, especially parrot owners, is biting. Parrots have large beaks and their bite can cause severe damage, so this is a behavior problem that needs to be corrected. Several ways are available to help control and reform the offending parrot rather than finding him a new home.

Why do birds bite?

Birds may bite for a number of reasons, and it is important for you to know why your bird is biting. It may influence which behavior modification techniques you use.

Biting in parrots is not a common wild bird behavior. The beak is used to grasp items for balance or climbing as well as eating. A bird uses its beak like a hand. Conflicts in birds tend to be handled with body language and vocalizations not biting.

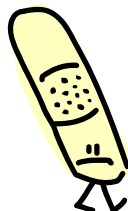


Baby bird behavior: Just as children and puppies tend to 'mouth' everything in sight, baby birds use their beaks to explore their surroundings. Young puppies who are playing will soon yelp if a sibling is biting too hard, letting the biter know he overstepped his bounds. Similarly, young birds need to be taught boundaries. Especially if raised alone without other nestlings, the young bird may not realize what pain its bite can

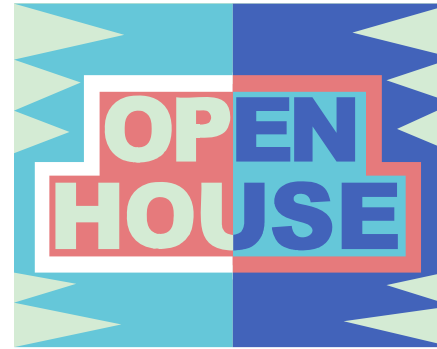
cause. Unlike a puppy, who will change his behavior because he does not like the sound of the yelp, a baby parrot will think yelling is a fantastic response and it will actually reinforce the behavior, as we describe later.

Biting may also be inadvertently taught when the new owner reaches his/her hand to pick up the baby parrot. The young parrot will usually reach toward the hand with its beak as a way to grasp it and climb on. If the owner pulls his hand back too quickly, the baby realizes that to get picked up, he better grab quicker next time. And soon grabbing can turn into biting.

Fear: 'Fight' or 'flight' are the common mechanisms used by animals if they are afraid or hurt. Birds in the wild will generally take to flight if they are startled or afraid, and biting would rarely be used. Birds in houses, with clipped



Continued on page 7



The open house was
lots of fun!
Thanks to all
of the volunteers.

Paul Lucht Feed

Helping supply your needs is our top priority!

Omaha, NE

1519 S. 3rd Street

402 - 342 - 5630

~ Come up to office ~

M - F 8am to 3pm

Closed Sat & Sun



Fort Calhoun, NE

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402 - 468 - 4122

Tuesday to Friday

4pm to 7pm

Saturday 9am to 1pm

Questions welcome! Just stop in, or call and ask.

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~ RowdyBush ~ TropikTreat ~

~ Mixed Fruit & Mixed Nuts ~



Ask about our GOCBS Member discount.

Important Information

The date of the Bird Club Picnic is changed!
It is going to be on

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011

We will also be having a short meeting at the picnic.

G.O.C.B.S.

www.greateromahacagebirdsociety.com

Drs. Foster & Smith

www.drsofostersmith.com

Exotic Pet Vet

www.exoticpetvet.net

ASPCA

www.asPCA.org

Bird Talk

www.birdchannel.com

Veterinary Care for Birds

OMAHA

Dave Kroeger DVM

11030 Emmet Street
Omaha, NE 68164
402-493-6767

www.AmericanAnimal.net

Member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians

Sarah Roelofs DVM

FREMONT

Dr. Troy Everson

1935 N. Bell Street
Fremont, NE 68025
402-721-3033

www.FremontAnimalMedicalClinic.com

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Brad Gengenbach, DVM

2780 South Street
Lincoln, NE 68502
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Member of the Association of Avian Veterinarians

A-4 Animal Hospital

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wings, however, do not have that as an avenue. They may bite if startled or hurt.

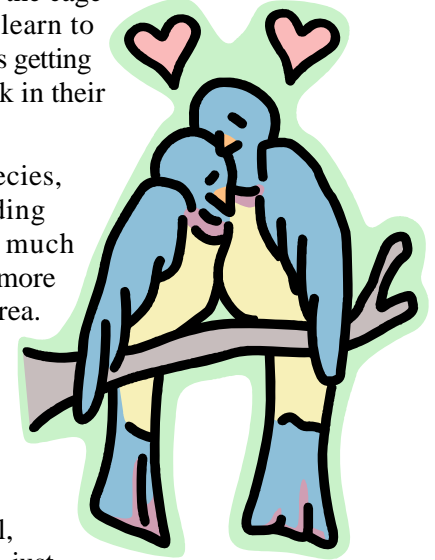
Control or Dominance: As we all know, groups of birds tend to have a pecking order, and the birds we have as pets are often no different. A bird may use biting as a way to defend his territory, and thus his status. This 'territory' may be a cage, another bird, or the human being to whom he is bonded. Some birds soon learn that if they bite, they get what they want, be it the drama of seeing their owner dancing around and yelling in pain, or a trip back to the cage where they can eat. Birds may also learn to bite to avoid doing something, such as getting their nails trimmed or being put back in their cage when they want to stay out.

Breeding behavior: For many species, sexually mature adult birds in breeding mode can become aggressive and much more protective of their mate and more likely to defend their cage as their area. It is important to distinguish if biting behavior may be hormonal driven and more of a 'phase,' or if the biting is a sign of dominance aggression.

Medical: If a bird does not feel well, they will often want to be left alone, just as we do. If biting starts in a bird who normally does not bite, or if you see other behavior changes such as eating or playing less, have your bird examined by a veterinarian.

Playing: During the course of play, a bird may occasionally bite. This can occur if the bird is overexcited, or the bird inadvertently grasps some part of human anatomy to keep his balance.

Learn to read the body language of birds. They will often show you how they feel. For instance, they may show signs they have had enough play or 'outside' time and need to go back to their cage. If you do not recognize this, the bird may start to bite to signal he has 'had enough.'



Continued on page 9



To fill out and turn in
your Adoption Form!

We Accept
PayPal
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Money Orders and Personal Checks

Cupie's
A Beakers Enterprises Company
www.Cupies.com

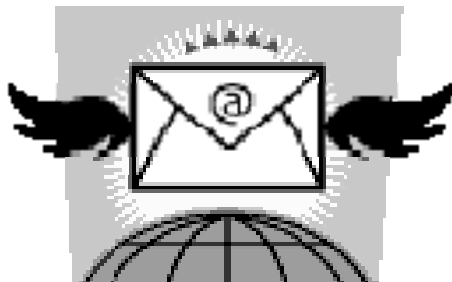
Pet Related Gifts for Pet People!

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(712) 642-3800 Fax
Cupie@Cupies.com

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**Sign up now to start receiving the latest
email news and updates:**

www.GreaterOmahaCageBirdSociety.com



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Correcting the biting behavior

To start correcting a biting problem, first determine the cause and correct any underlying problems such as treating an illness. Consider where, when, and to whom the biting is directed. Consider the other events that are going on when the biting occurs.

Evaluate, also, what sort of "pay-off" the bird is receiving for biting. Next, determine what behavior you would like the bird to exhibit instead of biting, and how you can rearrange the factors that contribute to the biting. Be sure the rest of your birds needs are being met - proper nutrition, sufficient sleep, foraging and other mental activity. It will be much more difficult to change the behavior of birds who are stressed because their basic needs are not being met. Be consistent in providing positive reinforcement (rewarding) good behavior and giving negative reinforcement (taking away something the bird wants) for bad behavior.

Correcting dominance/aggressive biting: The human needs to be seen by the bird as having a higher ranking. To start this, the parrot needs to be taught the 'step up,' 'ladder,' or 'up' and 'down' commands, which are used to get the bird to move from the perch to the owner's finger and back to the perch, or from one finger to the other. Short, daily training sessions should begin ideally from the first day the bird is brought home, before behavior problems occur. Training sessions should take place away from the bird's usual environment. If the parrot has already been biting for some time, and the owner is wary of the bird's beak, training may need to occur in a totally new environment. The bird will be much less likely to bite the only human he knows when he is in an unfamiliar place. Try your veterinary clinic, if needed. Family or friends may also let you use their house for the short training sessions.

Parrots respond to facial expressions and verbal praise. This type of positive reinforcement should be used when an appropriate response is given by the bird. If the bird responds inappropriately, raise your head above the bird's level and say "no" in a normal speaking voice. Do not use a loud voice or yell. They may think you are 'squawking,' which they love. No aggression or punishment is involved in the training. The daily lessons need to continue until the bird responds willingly to the commands. Once the commands are followed, discontinue the scheduled training but continue to use the commands during the daily handling of the bird.

It is best to keep a bird at slightly below your eye level. Do not allow these birds to ride on your shoulder. It puts your face, ears, eyes, and lips at risk of a serious bite. You need to learn to anticipate the biting and stop it with a stern look and command before it escalates to a bite.



Continued on page 12

American Animal Hospital

We care for pets...and people

Dave Kroeger, DVM
 Jay Jesske, DVM
 Matt Sternberg, DVM

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Obesity and Overfeeding Pet Birds

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Obesity is one of the number one health problems in pet animals. As with other pets, companion birds can develop weight-related health problems.

Causes of obesity in pet birds

Overfeeding can occur quite easily for several reasons:

- **Less energy expended:** In the wild, birds use considerable energy in flight, foraging for food, and maintaining their body temperature. However in our heated home environment, they are kept warm, they spend little time flying, and their food is brought to them, so little energy is expended.
- **Improper diet:** Diets fed to pet birds may be higher in calories than those they would have in the wild. Many times pet birds are given seeds or treats high in fat, such as sunflower seeds and peanuts. High carbohydrates, such as yams and pasta can be problematic too. Fruits are generally high in sugar, and can add to the calorie content.

Too often birds on seed diets are fed by simply filling the cup with seed, often providing far more than they should really eat in a day.

Risks of obesity in pet birds

Among pet birds, budgies, and to a lesser extent, cockatiels, are very prone to obesity and the resulting problems. These include:

- **Lipomas**, which are benign fatty tumors. They usually form over the abdomen, but sometimes over the crop and chest as well. Xanthomas, yellow fatty tumors, may also occur.
- **Liver disease** in the form of fatty liver, or hepatic lipidosis. This is a serious disease and can be fatal. As fat accumulates in the liver, the normal function of the liver is decreased. Signs of liver disease may include bleeding tendencies, loss of appetite, and overgrown beaks and toenails.

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Funny Bird Video Contest

On Facebook

On Facebook, search for the Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society Group page. You will be able to get to the event named Funny Bird Video Contest.

The direct link to the video contest event is:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/event.php?eid=175682999168287>



Add your favorite bird video or a link to the video directly to this Facebook Event! Please limit the videos to 2 to 3 minutes long.

.....
The winners will be announced during the Fall Bird Fair at the Mid-America Center, Council Bluffs, IA Sunday, September 18.

....
Everyone is eligible to enter their own video & try to win, but the winners must be able to pick up their prize (or have a representative) at the Fall Bird Fair Sunday, September 18, 2011.

...
The grand prize is \$50.00 plus a free membership to the Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society and some treats for the star of the video!

We will also award a prize to the 2nd and 3rd place winners!

Prizes will be awarded based off of how many people Like the video on the Event.

Good Luck. If you have any questions, call or email:

Chloe Welstead

(402) 450-2059

info@nebirdlady.com

- Exercise intolerance and difficulty breathing. As fat accumulates in the body, the air sacs have less room in the bird's body. As a result, an overweight bird may show some difficulty breathing or may not be able to exercise as much without tiring.
- Reproductive problems. Overweight birds may be less likely to breed and be more prone to reproductive problems such as egg binding.
- Shortened life span. As with any animal, an overweight bird is more likely to have a shortened life span, as well as a poorer quality of life. The extra weight puts a burden on multiple organs of the body as well as the legs and feet.

Helping an overweight bird If you think your bird may be overweight, consult your veterinarian. In most cases, switching from a seed-based diet to a formulated diet with vegetables will go a long way in slimming down your bird. For most larger pet birds, pelleted food should be 65-80% of the diet. Vegetables should make up 15-30%, and the remainder can be seeds and fruits.

Increasing your bird's opportunities for exercise can help. Purchase a larger cage and/or a play gym. Climbing ladders, playing with toys, and other activities can help remove the excess weight. Use foraging toys so your bird will have to work at getting his food.

Conclusion

Overfeeding birds can be relatively easy to do and is considered one of the most common nutritional health problems. It can lead to breeding problems, decreased organ function, and shorter life spans. Avoid overfeeding by understanding the different anatomy and physiology of birds, and feeding the proper diet. Consult with your veterinarian to determine if your bird is overweight, and what dietary modifications should be made.



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Meetings & Special Event Dates

Picnic & Meeting	Saturday - August 20
Meeting Cancelled Go to the Fair!	September 18
Fall Bird Fair	September 18
Meeting	October 16



GOCBS meets at 3:00 PM

Hope to see you there!

Our Meeting Location!



Nebraska Humane
Society

8949 Fort Street
Omaha, Nebraska

G O C B S W A N T A D S

Want ads are available to members at no cost for five (5) lines. If you are interested in more or are a non-member, the fee is \$5.00 per issue. GOCBS does not guarantee the health, quality, etc. of items listed for sale in these ads. All agreements are between buyer and seller. Verify prices, quantity and species of birds with the seller.

FOR SALE:

Female Red Rump Parakeet, very pretty.
Call Marcia in the evenings at (402) 453 - 5235

FOR SALE:

Two very sweet hand-fed **baby Quaker Parrots** (green split to blue) ready for a forever home. \$150.00 each for more info please contact:
Anna or Bonita at (402) 614 - 1099.

FOR SALE:

Taking deposits now.

Timneh African Grey and Orange Wing Amazon hand-fed babies. Hatched in July, they will be ready for their new homes in September or October. \$600.00 each please contact:
Chloe (402) 450 - 2059 or email info@nebirdlady.com

FOR SALE:

Long time local Bird Breeder selling out due to health reasons. Chuck and Monica Sudds of Beakers Aviary near Missouri Valley, Iowa are selling their beloved **PROVEN** breeding pairs. All have been in a closed aviary environment for over 12 years. All have been checked by Dr. Scott McDonald and are all micro-chipped:

- 2 pairs of Umbrella Cockatoos
- 2 pairs of Blue and Gold Macaws
- 1 pair of Scarlet Macaws
- 1 pair consisting of Greenwing Female and Harlequin Male

For more information call Bill Owens at (402) 218 - 6026

WANTED:

Contact: Joy Yager (402) 690-0682

- Feathers are donated to Native Americans across the USA
- Colored feathers from all species of birds.
- Feathers are used for their tribal gatherings



To place an ad: email: pandora1641@yahoo.com

**Adoption Application Form - New Form Required
Effective January 2011**



GREATER OMAHA CAGE BIRD SOCIETY

WHO NEEDS BIRD CLUBS ANYWAY?

If you keep birds as pets or raise them for a hobby, **YOU DO!!** Bird clubs are great resources for anyone interested in keeping birds. All bird owners go through similar experiences, so the sources of information about a variety of subjects can be a big help.

Please mark the box and **write the species** next to the bird(s) you are interested in. The Adoption fee is listed. Adoption
 Fostering

<input type="checkbox"/> Finch _____ \$1.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Quaker _____ \$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Budgie _____ \$2.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Amazon _____ \$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Canary _____ \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Grey _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lovebird _____ \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Cockatoo _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Parrotlet _____ \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Macaw _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Cockatiel _____ \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ TBD
<input type="checkbox"/> Conure _____ \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ TBD

- Contact Bill Owens (402) 218-6026 for information on the birds that are available for adoption. There is a minimal fee requested to adopt a bird. There is never a charge to place a bird up for adoption.
- Forms that have all or most boxes marked or without specific information will be discarded at the discretion of the Adoption Committee.
- Birds will be offered to club members first, then to the general public.
- The Adoption Committee will review applications and will decide on a home. In the case of several qualified homes, a name will be drawn from a hat. When there are no current adoption forms, the Committee will let people know through the newsletter or announcements at the meetings what birds are available.
- Volunteers are needed for fostering birds. If you have a room or quarantine area, and want to sign up to foster, mark the box above.
- Lost and found birds will stay in foster care for two weeks while attempts are made to find the original owner before adopting them out.
- Please note that all adoptions will take place locally, unless circumstances require otherwise. GOCBS is not responsible for the health or behavior of the birds being adopted. We encourage anyone interested in adopting a bird to have it checked out by an avian veterinarian and of course, to quarantine it from other birds in the home for a minimum of 30 days.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____

City

State

Zip Code

Membership fees are as follows:

	<i>January - December</i>	<i>July-December 1/2 Price</i>
Junior (under 16)	\$7.50/year	\$3.75
Single	\$15.00/year	\$7.50
Family	\$20.00/year	\$10.00
Business Associate	\$20.00/year	\$10.00

Meetings are at 3:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Nebraska Humane Society, 8929 Fort Street, Omaha, Nebraska

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO G.O.C.B.S.

Please fill out the following information:

Date: _____ New membership: ____ Renewal membership: ____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

(DON'T FORGET ZIP CODE)

Birth Date: Month/Day (only) _____ (list all names from above)

Home phone: _____ (____ roster or ____ unlisted)

Work phone: _____ (____ roster or ____ unlisted)

E-Mail Address: _____ (for Newsletter)

Pet birds: _____

Birds you breed: _____

**Please bring this to one of the meetings or mail to:
GOCBS, c/o Ginger Bostwick, 4406 State St., Omaha, NE 68112**

Year _____ Pd \$ _____ ca/ck j____ s____ f____ ba____ MC____ 11

**Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society
2011 Bird Fair Table Contract Form**

CONDITIONS:

1. Set up time will begin at 6 AM. Tables need to be set up and ready for business before 10:00 AM. Business hours will be from 10-5 for the public. If you need to close and leave earlier than 5, please advise a GOCBS vendor coordinator or a GOCBS officer. Tear down must be completed by 6:30 PM.
2. No other fund-raising activities are allowed other than those supporting GOCBS.
3. **Flight Feathers must be trimmed** for birds that will be on display outside of cages. **Expenses incurred to retrieve loose birds are the responsibility of the vendor and must be paid at the time of retrieval. Failure to comply may forfeit in participating in the remainder of the fair and suspension / refusal of any future fairs.**
4. GOCBS reserves the right to refuse applications for table rentals.
5. Space assignment for the fair will be done arbitrarily and at the discretion of the GOCBS officers. **Your assigned space must be cleaned at the end of the day. All large trash and boxes must be taken to the designated area.**
6. GOCBS will not be held responsible for any taxes or fees associated with the sale of livestock, merchandise, or supplies. **Tax papers need to be turned in to the state by the designated date.**
7. Neither GOCBS nor any representative of GOCBS will be held responsible for any damage, injury, or loss of any property (personal property, livestock, or equipment) however it may be caused.
8. **No un-weaned birds can be sold. All birds must be weaned.** If found to be in violation GOCBS can take immediate action to include the following: Immediate removal from the fair. Suspension / refusal to participate in any future fairs.
9. All birds are to be kept in the area assigned by GOCBS.
10. Sold birds should be provided a care sheet that provides current diet, future recommended diet, and any other care instructions. You should also give contact information to the new owner for any questions after the sale.
11. Due to limited space, there will be **no parking on the loading / unloading ramp.** Unloading will need to be limited to the street or the parking lot.
12. Prices for an eight foot table will be \$45.00. Prices for an eight foot space will be \$45.00. All payments must be in by Sept 12, 2011.

AGREEMENT: In consideration of the sum of \$45 per table and the sum of \$45 per space, Greater Omaha Cage Bird Society (GOCBS) will lease _____ tables and/or _____ spaces, to (your name) _____ at the bird fair to be held at Mid-America Center, One Arena Way, Council Bluffs, IA, 51501 on September 18, 2011.

Failure to abide by these rules will result in immediate removal from the fair.

I agree to the conditions stated above. Payment included in the amount of \$ _____.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST, ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

TERMS OF PAYMENT:

Please return this agreement and a check or money order made payable to GOCBS in the amount appropriate for full payment of table rental to: Rick Kling, 3604 N 45th Street, Omaha, NE, 68104 Phone (402) 933-5686.

Please describe what you will be displaying on your table, to help with our process of table assignments, describe any special requirements that you desire (electricity, etc.): *Use reverse side if needed.*