

## A Blue Mickaboo Miracle

By Nicol Sanchez



Meet Blue! He is an English/American Hybrid Parakeet, and one of Mickaboo Companion Bird Rescue's special success stories.

Blue came to us at Mickaboo in critical condition – handed to one of our volunteers in a paper bag, he was fluffed up and unable to move. He was rushed to the Medical Center For Birds ("MCFB") for emergency medical treatment. As an English Budgie he should weigh 40-60 grams; at only 25 grams he was literally feathers and bones.

The vet told us this was the worst case of Avian Gastric Yeast ("AGY") they had ever seen and his outcome was questionable at best.

Mickaboo assured the vet that we would pay for whatever was needed to save him – and they did! Day after day Blue improved. He ate everything in sight and slowly gained weight. By the seventh day the

vet said Blue could go home. He weighed 34 grams, almost 10 grams heavier!

Just when we thought Blue was in the clear, he began having seizures. He was rushed to the nearest emergency vet, but he had already been seizing for about 30 minutes and the seizures had not stopped. The emergency vet thought it would be best to euthanize him, but Mickaboo knew if Blue could survive the night, MCFB would be able to help him. The emergency vet gave Blue Valium, allowing him to rest for a while. First thing in the morning, Blue was rushed to MCFB as they waited in anticipation. The MCFB team sprang into action to save Blue's life. Blue's foster parents said their goodbyes, uncertain if they would ever see Blue alive again. After several days MCFB contacted Mickaboo - Blue was doing worlds better and could go home again!!!

Blue initially had Avian Gastric Yeast and overcame it; he then had Chlamydia, which caused the seizures. He overcame that too. Blue is a survivor!

Thanks to Mickaboo and the team at the Medical Center for Birds, Blue is alive and well and (as of October 2014) in his forever home. He now weighs 42-45 grams and eats a healthy diet of organic pellets and vegetables. Due to the seizure he has limited vision in one eye, but he's able to move around quite well. Blue is just one example of what Mickaboo and its volunteers do for their birds, with the financial support of many.

*Editor's note - Blue's forever guardian has this update on him:*

*Blue is a wonderful, cheerful English Budgie. You would never know what he had to go through medically to regain his health and enable adoption to a permanent home. I was quite excited to adopt him as a companion for my other English Budgie, Boris.*

*He enjoys eating (and is a very good veggie eater!), playing with toys in the cage (especially his mirror toy), and chilling with Boris.*

*He is easy to handle, very handsome, and a daily source of inspiration for me. I love him.*