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## Featured Volunteer: Linda Terra

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Linda and Sammie the  
mini macaw

This is the first of a series of interviews of Mickaboo's new home visit team. The home visit is an important step in our adoption/fostering process. It gives the potential adopter or fosterer a chance to have a 1-1 meeting with a volunteer to ask questions and get feedback. It also allows any potential dangers in the home environment to be identified and discussed. I always tell folks we leave our white gloves at home LOL; we are only concerned about seeing if there are potential hazards or dangers for the bird(s) coming into the home.

The home visit team was created to reduce delays in our adoption/foster qualification process. The creation of this specialized team also allows our species coordinators, who used to be responsible for home visit scheduling and execution, to have more time for adopter follow-up tasks.

There are three members of this initial team, and we will introduce you to all of them in this series. First up is Linda Terra, the team's leader.

SH: Tell us about yourself.

LT: I was raised in a military family (Air Force) so we traveled a lot during the 1950's and 1960's—Europe, Asia and USA. My father retired to the Central / San Joaquin Valley when I was 16 and bought a ranch. I was raised with horses, cows, birds, cats and dogs. I always liked animals and worked at a zoo when I was in college. I am a licensed clinical social worker by profession and worked with kids my whole career. My employer was Alameda County Children's Protected Services for 40 years, working in foster care, adoptions, volunteer service programs and child abuse and neglect investigations. This experience was easily transferable to Mickaboo and birds. I love working with birds and people. Seeing both happy and doing well is important to me.

I learned about Mickaboo in 2017 when my much-loved Moluccan Cockatoo died and I looked for another bird.

SH: How long has the home visit team been in place?

LT: The home visit team started operating formally in April 2019, so we are a new team. We are still figuring out what works best to meet the needs of potential adopters. I like the people stuff as much as the birds.



Linda's adopted lovebirds

SH: We all appreciate all the hard work you folks do to keep those home visits moving along! Have you had other areas in which you have volunteered for Mickaboo?

LT: I will try to stand in for people when they are on an extended vacation from their Mickaboo volunteer roles so I can learn more about Mickaboo's programs and the birds. Mickaboo species coordinators need a break from time to time - I am just learning what a tough job that is.

SH: Mickaboo can certainly only continue to help birds in need through our awesome volunteers. Anything you would like to say to those who might be contemplating volunteering with Mickaboo?

LT: We can all interact with and educate the general public and other volunteers in whatever Mickaboo role we have. That is very important, so people learn about birds even if they do not adopt them.