

*Maggie Wright's*

# NATURE'S CORNER®

THE NATURE OF PETS AND OTHER CRITTERS



**ALEX MEMORIAL ISSUE**

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ISSUE 014

# CELEBRATING ALEX:

## OUR PRINCE OF HEARTS



©Arlene Levin-Rowe

*By Maggie Wright*

We ALL know that our companion animals are smart, and we all have our smart pet stories.

For example, there's Chin Chin, the Cocker Spaniel, who fetches your shoes and your newspaper, when you ask. And there's Allie, the cat, who knows how to move a table so that she can jump onto a shelf to retrieve some of

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**NATURE'S CORNER® MAGAZINE  
THE NATURE OF PETS AND OTHER CRITTERS**

Cover photo by Arlene Levin-Rowe

# PUBLISHER'S PEN

Thank you so much for your patience!

Nature's Corner® Magazine is in the middle of a redesign process because we wish to make it appeal to a great many animal lovers who want to better understand the true potential of their animal companions and other critters of Nature. We have conducted many focus groups to explore exactly what consumers want to see in an animal magazine that explores the “whole” animal, its intelligence and sentience, physical and behavioral potential. We are now working our way toward implementing some of the changes.

I had a choice of continuing to put out issues that were almost there, or to wait until we had the formula to do it right. I am an entrepreneur with a low budget, but also with a big dream to put out a magazine that helps our animals show us how they really are, instead of the mundane way in which many of us see them. There may continue to be some growing pains and long periods between issues in 2008, but I promise that all of this effort will result in the “animals’ magazine” that guides us through our hearts to understand how to help them achieve their true potential.

Alex has touched the minds and hearts of masses of people across the world, and his hard work, his slugging it out day after day, has proven that animals, beyond primates and dolphins, can really think. We are all better off because this little gray bird with his big intellect and attitude agreed to come down from heaven to straighten us out. This issue celebrates his “presence” and accomplishments, and it provides closure for all of us who really love him. Thank you, Alex.

Carrying forward our theme of communication, we have also included a few articles that explore ways in which we can better communicate with our animal companions. Join us as we learn to speak dog and cat. Read about how to utilize some of the elements of Alex’s learning process to teach your bird to talk. It’s all about communication.

Enjoy,

***Maggie***

Editor & Publisher

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*MARGARET T. WRIGHT*



# COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CANINE

But why are we  
so obsessed  
with all of this  
today?



©Peter Colen

*By Wendy Dunham*

I'm the proud mom of four  
wonderful rescue dogs.

# TEACHING YOUR BIRD TO TALK

“Want chair,” and he was taken to the chair. “Want to go back!” and he was...



*by Maggie Wright*

Birds learn to talk in order to communicate their needs; and once they understand the “power” of their words, the fact that they can get what they want by talking, many of them will learn to talk. Most of us cannot teach our birds exactly like Alex because 1) first, we do not have the time and 2) secondly, we do not always have partners that are free to help us conduct Model/Rival techniques. However, we can use some of the principles from the M/R system and assimilate them into an easier system for the “average” pet human, which we already know is well below the “average” African Grey Master! Nevertheless, this is what I shall attempt in this article.

*GOODBYE*

# SAYING GOODBYE

I think I will  
forever shed  
a tear when I  
think of him.

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*By Arlene Levin-Rowe*

As I walk into the lab each day since Alex's death, my heart goes to the pit of my stomach, knowing that Alex is no longer there to greet me.