

parrots

Issue 88

May 2005

# parrots

*...dealing exclusively with  
parrots & parakeets*

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# Beware of parrot perils

**Parrots magazine has been alerted to some unfortunate recent occurrences which readers may wish to be aware of.**

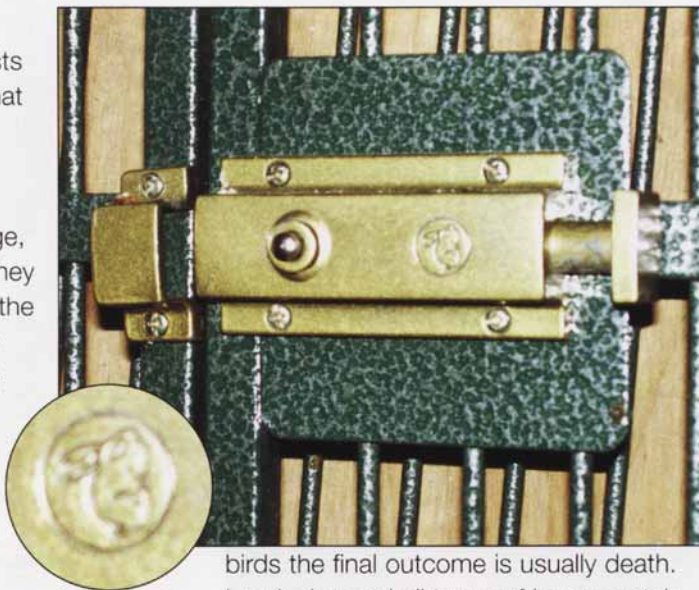
## Metal cage warning

Jim and Angela Neal's parrots, Harley and Henry, were expected to live for 50 years or more - they died aged just 10 months. The cause of death was a parrot cage.

The results of blood tests and post mortems show that the two baby parrots were killed by heavy metal poisoning, caused by the cage or the bolt on the cage, or both. The cage, which they shared, was imported into the UK from China; the bolt on the cage door was a brass colour with a Rabbit logo stamped onto the face of the bolt housing.

The onset of this type of poisoning can be very fast and sometimes not

noticeable at all, or it can be misinterpreted as just "feeling a little miserable", or a virus. There is little that can be done by the time the illness is diagnosed and unfortunately in smaller



birds the final outcome is usually death. Lead, zinc and all types of heavy metals are lethal to parrots.

The vet informed Jim and Angela that most of the cages with this bolt fixing have been withdrawn from sale, but that there may still be a few "in the system" that have not yet hit the shop floor. There may also be owners who have housed their pet in a cage that was purchased prior to retail withdrawal.



## Grapes from Chile

In February in the USA, eight cockatoos died seemingly as a result of eating grapes. The parrots were given half a grape each as a treat, but within 15 minutes they were showing signs of sickness. Five minutes later they had lost muscle control and couldn't perch, started violently regurgitating and couldn't breathe. Less than a minute later, they died.

The necropsy shows the reason for the deaths appears to be a natural toxin that affects the nervous system. The toxin is caused by a mould growth in the meat of the grape - the parrots affected ate grapes from Chile that had been washed in anti-microbial soap and heavily rinsed.

Traces of dangerous pesticides have been found on Chilean-exported apples and grapes in recent years, with levels exceeding European Union limits. There were also apparently 285 pesticide-related poisonings in the country in November and December last year.

## Animal auction website

An animal auction website has been set up in the USA, offering an online trading place for parrots and other animals. Concern has been raised over the welfare of animals bought or sold using the site, as there is no regulation and no way for unaware buyers to check the health or well-being of their potential purchases. It could also encourage people with little or no experience of various pets or species to 'impulse buy' - leading to a seemingly inevitable increase in the amount of unwanted, neglected or abandoned animals. AniBid ([www.anibid.com](http://www.anibid.com)) describes itself as "the ultimate animals-only auction site", and trades in exotic, farm and pet animals.