



ED GRAUNKE/SUN PHOTOS

BEAK N WINGS president **Dean Tyson**, Overland Park, and vice president **Jennifer Hammertt**, Shawnee, visit with Honeydew, a double yellow headed Amazon parrot, at PetCo on Sunday.

behavior can be changed by spending more time with the birds or changing their diets, but these changes and "rehome" a bird do not always work.

"Their behavior pattern may be worse going to a new home, no matter how much attention you give them. They may go into depression," Patrick said. "We like to see the bird stay in the home, especially if we can tell that there is no neglect."

Patrick said the birds often benefit from fostering and rescue because they come into homes where they are cared for and loved.

"I've had many animals in my life. I grew up with dogs, cats, horses, rabbits and I loved the birds. I love the personality of the birds," Hammertt said. "I like how, if you've got several of them, they flock together. You become their flock. When I come home I get, 'Hi, bird.' And I say 'Hi, bird' back. I'm the big bird."

"Everybody does dog rescues and cat rescues, but the general public doesn't understand what it takes to own a parrot and we feel like we give them the attention they need," Patrick said. "What we personally get out of it is the companionship

that these birds give."

Tyson said the group meets monthly and does work in the community.

"We go out to these events to promote the adoption of these birds," Tyson said. "A lot of adoptees have seen us through events they've gone too or seen us on the Internet."

Tyson said the average stay for a bird in Beak n Wings foster care is six months. Individuals wishing to adopt a rescue bird must submit an application, allow Beak n Wings to do a home study and visit the adopted bird twice to ensure they are compatible.

Tyson said Beak n Wings is sustained by adoption fees and donations. He said the group is searching for a building to use as a headquarters and hopes to extend rescue efforts to other parts of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Texas, but efforts are slow because the group lacks donations.

Tyson said foster homes are located throughout Kansas City, but homes for the birds are "stalled."

"We try and educate the public on the front end so maybe the rescue group won't have to do so much rescuing on the back end," Patrick said.