

FRIENDS *of the* FEATHERED

Beak 'n Wings takes in unwanted birds, puts them up for adoption

By MICHELLE BURHENN
The Kansas City Star

Even louder than the thunderstorm outside and his two new Sheltie puppies are the sounds that come from Dean Tyson's basement. Chirps, squawks, hellos and even what sounds like a sound effect from a video game echo below.

Open the door, and the sound gets louder. Twelve birds — some doubled up in cages, others too aggressive for a partner — vie for their caregiver's attention. The noise fills the basement of this Overland Park home.

Some people can't take the noise, said Tyson, who is the founder and executive director of Beak 'n Wings,

a bird rescue and adoption organization. He admits he is a cat person, first, but the birds have grown on him.

"Before that I was into plants," he said. "It's been a big change. They don't talk back to you."

Of the 12 birds in Tyson's care, he owns all but one. One is in his care waiting to be adopted. The organization has 13 of these foster homes, where the birds go until the organization finds them a permanent home.

Tyson started the organization in 1999. Beak 'n Wings earned its nonprofit status two years ago and also is a licensed shelter under the Kansas



MIKE RANSELL/The Kansas City Star

Beak 'n Wings is a nonprofit group based in Kansas City that cares for foster birds. The founder and director, Dean Tyson, lives in north Overland Park with several of his birds.

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