

Feathered Friends Who Love to Chat

When most people consider getting a pet, cats, dogs, and goldfish immediately **spring to mind**. But only one **creature**, which is often **overlooked**, has the capacity to speak back to its owners in human language. It's our **miraculous** fine feathered friend, the [parrot](#).

当大部分人在思索该养什么宠物时，脑中马上浮现的通常是猫、狗和金鱼。但只有一种常被忽略的动物，能用人类语言与牠的主人响应。就是我们神奇又美妙的鸟类朋友：鹦鹉。

With their long, curved **beaks** and rainbow-colored feathers, these **exotic** birds initially **caught people's eye** back in ancient times. At first, people would **pluck** their feathers and use them in religious ceremonies or as **decorations**. But once people realized parrots' **intelligence**, they began keeping them as pets.

鹦鹉有长而弯曲的喙以及七彩缤纷的羽毛，这些充满异国风情的鸟类早在古代就吸引人类的目光。起初，人们拔下牠们的羽毛作为装饰或用于宗教仪式中。可是一旦人类发觉鹦鹉极高的智能，就开始把牠们当作宠物饲养。

In total, there are over 350 parrot species and most possess a **keen intellect**. [African Grey Parrots](#) can understand thousands of spoken **commands** and can even form basic sentences. One **gifted** example, named [N'kisi](#), even learned to speak using the correct **tense**. In scientific studies, [Kea](#) Parrots demonstrated the ability to solve puzzles and operate basic tools.

鹦鹉一共超过 350 种不同品种，而且大部份都非常聪明。非洲灰鹦鹉能了解上千种口头命令，甚至还能造基本的句子。一只天赋异禀，名为尼基西的鹦鹉就是一个很好的例子，因为牠甚至学会用正确的时态对话。科学研究中，啄羊鹦鹉也展现了拼拼图及使用简单工具的能力。

As a result of their incredible brain power and **linguistic** talents, parrots always seem to be **popping up** in the media. In 2008, Yosuke, a **stray** parrot in Japan, managed to talk its way home. After it was captured by an animal clinic, the clever bird started repeating its name and address. Recently, a South American parrot named Lorenzo also made headlines when he was arrested for helping [drug dealers](#) escape from the law. When the police **showed up** to **bust** the dealers at their **hideout**, Lorenzo warned them, "Run, run, or the cat will get you!" Although parrots may occasionally **ruffle** some **feathers**, these talented birds have proven **time and again** that they're the [Einsteins](#) of the animal kingdom.

由于鹦鹉具有不可思议的脑力和语言天份，牠们经常出现在媒体上。2008 年日本一只走失的鹦鹉洋辅靠着一张嘴而找到回家的路。当牠被动物诊所收容时，这只聪明的鸟开始不断反复念着自己的名字和地址。最近则有一只南美洲的鹦鹉罗伦佐也登上头条新闻，牠因帮助毒贩逃过法律制裁而被逮捕。当警察出现在毒贩藏匿处准备要一网打尽时，罗伦佐警告毒贩：「逃啊，逃啊，不然猫会抓住你们。」虽然鹦鹉偶尔会被激怒而竖起羽毛，这些聪慧的鸟儿已再度证明牠们是动物界的爱因斯坦。

— by Jamie Blackler

Vocabulary

creature [ˈkri:tʃə] n. 生物；动物

overlook [ˌovəˈlʊk] v. 看漏；忽略

miraculous [mɪˈrækjələs] adj. 神奇的

parrot [ˈpærət] n. 鹦鹉

beak [bi:k] n. 鸟嘴

exotic [ɛgˈzɒtɪk] adj. 外来的；外国产的

pluck [plʌk] v. 拔……的毛

decoration [ˌdeɪkəˈreɪʃən] n. 装饰物，装饰品

intelligence [ɪnˈtelədʒəns] n. 智力；理解力

keen [ki:n] adj. 敏锐的，敏捷的

intellect [ˈɪntelɪkt] n. 智力

command [kəˈmænd] n. 命令

gifted [ˈɡɪftɪd] adj. 有天资的，有天赋的

tense [tɛns] n. (动词的)时态

linguistic [lɪŋˈɡwɪstɪk] adj. 语言的

stray [streɪ] adj. 迷路的，走失的

drug dealer 毒品贩子，贩毒者

bust [bʌst] v. 逮捕；搜查

hideout: [ˈhaɪd, aʊt] n. 隐匿处 a place of shelter or concealment

ruffle [ˈrʌfl] v. 弄绉；弄毛糙

More Information

spring to mind: 突然想到 to appear suddenly or immediately in your thoughts

catch one's eye: 某事引起某人的注意 to attract one's attention

pop up: 出现，发生(尤指出乎意料) appear suddenly or unexpectedly

show up: 出现，露面 to put in an appearance; arrive

ruffle someone's feathers: 冒犯或激怒某人 to irritate or annoy someone

time and again: 屡次 very often