

# Parrot Communication Study

## Introduction Sheet and Consent Form

You are asked to participate in a research study conducted by Dr. Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas, from University of Glasgow, Dr. Jennifer Cunha, Parrot Kindergarten, Inc., and Dr. Rebecca Kleinberger, Media Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. You were selected as a possible participant in this study because you have a pet parrot who could benefit from remotely communicating with other parrots and you are interested in furthering the field of animal-computer interaction. You should read the information below, and ask questions about anything you do not understand, before deciding whether or not to participate.

### **PARTICIPATION AND WITHDRAWAL**

Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and you are free to choose whether to be in it or not. If you choose to be in this study, you may subsequently withdraw from it at any time without penalty or consequences of any kind. The investigator may withdraw you from this research if circumstances arise which warrant doing so.

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

The aim of this experiment is to investigate how domesticated pet parrots would use video call software in a communication board to video call other parrots. While parrots have had access to video calls for some time, no investigation has been undertaken into how parrots behave with video calls, and if they would choose to make these video calls when given the option too. We are interested if the birds will freely select to video call other birds and how they might interact with different user interfaces and hardware (including various image frame rates and filters, display sizes and forms, etc.).

### **PROCEDURES**

The entire protocol will last until July 31, 2022 and involve the following steps

- Preparation June 24-July 1st
  - Introduction meeting
  - Setup
  - Coordination with groups
  - Meeting Friends Training meeting
- Phase 1: Meet and greets July 1st - July 13
  - Coordinate and meet (2x) with friend 1 - by July 6
  - Coordinate and meet (2x) with friend 2 - by July 10
  - Coordinate and meet (2x) with friend 3 - by July 13
- Phase 2: on demand colls July 14- July 31
  - 3 hour windows, minimum 4x per week (can do more if you wish)

This study will involve a few initial meetings with the researchers and the Parrot Kindergarten school to get familiar with the study and the protocols. You then, with our support, will initially introduce the birds to the tablet through scheduling “meet-and-greet” sessions with other parrots. These sessions will be arranged with us, and use Facebook Messenger for Kids to video call. These calls will be maximum 15 mins each and will involve you filming the birds interactions, and sending us a video of these interactions along with a diary of your thoughts via an online form.

After your bird has become familiar with the interface and is showing no negative behaviors, we will then give the birds free choice to call their bird when their caregiver is busy that they have previously met still using Facebook Messenger for Kids. Again, we will also ask you to keep a diary via an online form of your bird calls, video record these calls for analysis and take part in interview post-study to collect your thoughts on parrot-to-parrot video callers. This part of the study will require you to be available for your bird to potentially call others or receive calls for a window of about 3h, four times a week coordinated to synchronise with the other three participants in your group.

Throughout the study, we will collect the diaries, timing of the birds' video interactions (time, date and length of call, with whom) and interviews. We will work this data out from the video that you send us, nothing will be recorded by the app itself only by you, the owner. These interviews and data will be anonymised and transcribed for analysis by the three researchers at the bottom of this sheet.

## **POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

You may learn more about your bird and enjoy providing them with a new potential form of enrichment. You may also enjoy contributing to future technology. Also, your participation will help us gain insight into the potential to use remote communication as a form of enrichment, training and emotion regulation for parrots in managed care.

## **PAYMENT FOR PARTICIPATION**

There is no reward or incentives offered for completing this study.

## **REQUIREMENT FOR PARTICIPATION**

To undertake this study you must have:

- Have a parrot that is at least one year old
- Live in the continental United States or Canada
- Be 18 years old or older
- Have access to a training setup (play stand, cage area, etc.) that allows my bird to move closer and farther away from the tablet screen with three feet of horizontal space so they can exit and approach as they feel comfortable
- Have a touchscreen (tablet or cell phone) on a stand/tripod/hanging attachment that can be safely and securely near the bird (this device will be called “bird device”)
- Have a secondary cell phone with a camera or an external camera that can be set up to record the sessions (this device will be called a “recording device”)

- Be willing to spend up to 15 min per day, four days a week, for up to six weeks, training and facilitating the intervention for your bird (between June 17 and July 31)
- Have Facebook messenger installed on the bird device and be able to create a “child” profile for your bird

Please ask questions if you need to and please let me know if you have any concerns or clarifications. Please remember that it is the system, not you and your parrot, that is being evaluated and it is not a test of your parrots ability but seeking ways to support parrots. You and your bird are welcome to withdraw from the experiment at any time and have your data removed from the study.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

All results will be held in strict confidence, ensuring the privacy of all participants. No personal participant information will be stored with the data. Online data will be stored in a password protected computer account; paper data will be kept in a single-occupant locked office.

### As part of this experiment you may be videotaped

<input type="checkbox"/>	I agree to allow my video to be used for this research project only
<input type="checkbox"/>	I agree to allow my video, photo, and audio recordings to be used for this research and for educational and related non-profit purposes such as conference publications and presentations.

You understand that by being in this research, you cannot publish (on social media or elsewhere) any information about the research project outside of the group of other parrot owners or without written permission from the collaborators.

## IDENTIFICATION OF INVESTIGATORS

If you have any further questions regarding this experiment, please contact the research team at [parrotstudy@media.mit.edu](mailto:parrotstudy@media.mit.edu) or the investigators directly:

- Pr. Ilyena Hirskyj-Douglas, University of Glasgow, [ilyena.hirskyjdouglas@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:ilyena.hirskyjdouglas@glasgow.ac.uk)
- Dr. Jennifer Cunha, Parrot Kindergarten, Inc., [jen@parrotkindergarten.com](mailto:jen@parrotkindergarten.com)
- Dr. Rebecca Kleinberger, Media Laboratory, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, [rebklein@mit.edu](mailto:rebklein@mit.edu)

This study has been approved by the School of Science and Veterinary Medicine Ethical Committee at The University of Glasgow.

**SIGNATURE OF RESEARCH SUBJECT OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE**

I understand the procedures described above. My questions have been answered to my satisfaction, and I agree to participate in this study. I have been given a copy of this form.

A feedback email message will be sent to all participants, after the data has been analyzed. I have read this information sheet, and agree to voluntarily take part in this experiment:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_