



Banciao parrot eats betel nut, brings good fortune

鸚鵡「寶寶」吃檳榔、招好運

Pao-pao, a colorful parrot from Banciao City in Taipei County, can not only dance and understand what its owner says, but is also a fan of betel nut. Such is the bird's love of betel nut, that it has **astounded** onlookers by eating it directly out of its owner's mouth.

The bird's owner, Tsai Ching-chuan, says that his parrot's IQ is similar to that of a child, and that the bird has formed a strong **bond** with him. However, Pao-pao doesn't like to eat bird food, preferring instead to feast on betel nut.

Tsai has had Pao-pao for seven years now, and in the beginning he fed it regular bird food. But one day when he was chatting with friends, he popped a piece of betel nut into his mouth, only for Pao-pao to put its beak in his mouth as well. Everybody was surprised, and initially thought that Pao-pao was trying to kiss him. Eventually they realized that Pao-pao was in fact trying to eat the betel nut, and is actually something of a betel nut aficionado, only eating it when it's fresh.

According to Tsai, local betel nut stand owners all know that Pao-pao is a betel nut-loving parrot. Whenever he goes

to restock on betel nut, the stand owners give an extra piece for Pao-pao. The bird then performs a little dance to show how much she enjoyed it.

A city representative surnamed Shih, who is an old friend of Tsai, noticed the bird's popularity. Now she plans to take advantage of it by taking Pao-pao with her when she goes to meet **voters**.

Tsai said he was offered NT\$200,000 to sell Pao-pao, but he and his wife are really attached to their pet. Pao-pao also brings good fortune to Tsai and his wife. Whenever it **squawks** "Mama fa-tsai" (mama makes money), Tsai's wife goes out and buys a winning lottery ticket. (LIBERTY TIMES, TRANSLATED BY TAIJING WU)

北縣板橋市民蔡清全飼養十二色吸蜜鸚鵡，不僅聽話、愛跳舞，還喜歡吃檳榔，有時等不急就直接伸頭到他的嘴裡搶，宛如「人鸚接吻」，畫面令人噴飯！

蔡清全說，鸚鵡智商和小孩差不多，會和飼主產生感情。不過，「寶寶」平常不喜歡吃飼料，竟以檳榔果腹。

蔡清全說，寶寶已養了七年多，剛買回來也是餵牠吃飼料，但有

次和朋友聊天，才剛把檳榔放進口中嚼，寶寶竟把頭伸進他的嘴裡，大家都嚇了一跳，以為這隻母鸚鵡要和他接吻，後來眾人才發現，寶寶原來也是喜歡吃檳榔的「紅唇族」，且只吃「菁仔」。

蔡清全說，現在連檳榔攤老闆都知道寶寶是隻愛吃檳榔的鸚鵡，只要去買檳榔都會多送一顆給寶寶，牠還常吃得開心跳舞。

市民代表石一佑和蔡清全是多年好友，最近她也看上寶寶的吸睛效果，打算邀請寶寶陪她跑攤、拜票助選，相信走到哪都會很受歡迎。

蔡清全說，曾有人開價二十萬元要買寶寶，但他和老婆都捨不得割愛，且寶寶有時還會開口招財運，只要牠一喊「媽媽發財！」蔡太太當天買的樂透就會中獎，屢試不爽。(自由時報記者蔡偉祺攝)

Tsai Ching-chuan and his parrot Pao-pao pose for pictures in Banciao City, Taipei County on May 13, 2010.

PHOTOS: TSAI WEI-CHI, LIBERTY TIMES

五月十三日，台北縣板橋市民蔡清全和所飼養的鸚鵡「寶寶」。

照片：自由時報記者蔡偉祺攝

TODAY'S WORDS

今日單字

1. **astound** /ə'staund/ v.

使震驚 (shi3 zhen4 jing1)

例：The pianist's performance astounded the audience.
(那位鋼琴家的演奏令聽眾驚艷。)

2. **bond** /band/ n.

連結 (lian2 jie2)，關係 (guan1 xi4)

例：There's an unbreakable bond between the nations.
(那幾個國家的關係密不可分。)

3. **voter** /'votə/ n.

選民 (xun3 min2)

例：Hundreds of voters turned out to have their say in the recent elections.
(最近的選舉中，上百名選民用選票表達自己的意見。)

4. **squawk** /skwɔk/ v.

(鳥類的) 嘎嘎叫聲 (niao3 lei4 de5 ga1 ga1 jiao4 sheng1)

例：The chickens kept me awake with their constant squawking.
(我被不絕於耳的雞鳴聲吵醒。)