



The Story Continues...

Wendy

Over the last 3 months Wendy has been really well. She is still living with 19 other young Great Green Macaws awaiting release at our Manzanillo release site during the next year.

All of the Macaws housed at The ARA Project Breeding Centre underwent health checks and deworming treatment during this time, including Wendy. This is the best time of year to do these checks and treatments as the Macaws have finished breeding and so their stress levels have dropped dramatically. Wendy is one of the

favourites during these treatments as she tends to be quite calm and doesn't wriggle while being held.

To perform a health check and deworming treatment on Wendy, Chris the Co-director and chief Macaw handler had to catch Wendy up in a net. Chris then held Bella very carefully but firmly by the head and feet while cradling her against his body, restraining the wings. Macaws are very strong, quick and clever and will try anything they can to get away from being restrained so it is necessary to have control over their entire body so no one, including the Macaw, gets hurt. Wendy was then examined by Jenny The ARA Project's Vet Nurse. The examination is mainly visual to make sure she has no wounds or abnormalities and to make sure she is in good condition and an appropriate weight. When Jenny was happy Wendy was healthy she was given a dose of Pyrantel deworming liquid orally and also sprayed over her body with demite spray as a precaution and released back into the large aviary.



At the end of November 2012 The ARA Project came under crisis. We were informed that the land our Breeding Centre is on had been sold and we were given an eviction notice. We have only been given 4 months to move our entire Breeding Centre, including Wendy and her friends. We are very lucky and truly grateful that Punta Islita Hotel, the home of our newest release site for the Scarlet Macaw at Punta Islita on the Nicoya Peninsula on the Pacific Coast of Costa Rica, has donated a large piece of land adjacent to our release site to be used to rebuild the Breeding Centre. Our next step is to fund-raise the money to construct all of the aviaries and housing needed for our new Breeding Centre and we hope we can start construction in the new year. Internet crowd-funding campaigns have been set up on razoo.com/thearaproject and indiegogo.com/araproject to help receive donations. It has been estimated we will need \$US250,000 to construct and move all of the Macaws to their new home.

Because of this crisis the team at The ARA Project have decided Wendy and her friends who are awaiting release will be heading to the release site at Manzanillo, South Caribbean Coast, during the first part of the new year. They will be the third group to be released into this area. Currently The ARA Project are almost finished releasing the second group of *Great Green Macaws* and all these Macaws are doing amazingly well. They are learning the skills they need to survive in the wild from the first group who are now true wild *Great Green Macaws*.

