

4. Parrots

This is my parrot, Goat. His previous owner named him Goat, because when he was little, he would walk around on the floor, making a noise that sounded like a goat. Since he knew his name, I felt it was best we didn't change it.

Goat is an Amazon Blue Fronted Parrot and he is the life of our house. He is active and comical, uttering phrases and even singing. It's hard to imagine an animal can be so smart.

There are around 372 different species of parrots, mostly living in tropical areas. They eat mostly seeds and fruits. Parrots are believed to be one of the most intelligent bird species. I can speak from experience when I tell you that Parrots also seem to have moods, much like humans. Sometimes he is angry, sometimes he is playful and downright comical, and other times he is happy. Goat seems to think he's the most intelligent anything.....so I will let him speak for himself!

(goat clips)

You may be surprised to learn that as well as he can talk and sing, parrots don't actually have vocal cords. Instead, they produce sounds by pushing air out of their trachea. They are able to control the pitch by changing the shape and depth of their trachea. What they are really doing is mimicry! Everything that goat says, he learned from a human voice.

Parrots come in different shapes, colors and sizes, however all of them have zygodactyl feet, meaning they have 2 toes that point forward, and 2 that point backward. This makes them very agile. They are great climbers and often use their beak and feet to do some amazing acrobatics. He can even dance!

Since parrots usually live around 80 years, he will be entertaining me for the rest of my life! My daughter would agree with me, Parrots are wonderful creatures, and I find it fascinating how well they can talk.

Source: www.sciencekids.co.nz