

A Guide For Performing A Basic Physical Examination On Captive Birds In Your Care *cont.*

Author: Dr. Anthony Pilny, DVM, DABVP

EYES/EARS



Normal eye and normal ear location

ORAL CAVITY



Normal Choanal Papillae



Abnormal/Blunted Papillae

CROOKED BEAK



Abnormal beak shape from previous trauma or infection

HEALTHY BEAK



Normal beak

FEATHER DESTRUCTION BEHAVIORS

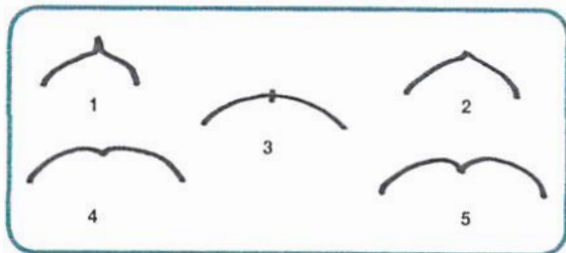


Feather-plucking Macaw



Self-mutilation Cockatoo

BODY CONDITION



Score by pectoral muscle mass (right and left with keel bone in center) #1 (thinnest) to #5 (obesity) based on palpation during examination

FEET & TOES



Abnormal toe with wear and hyperkeratosis



Normal toe bottom



Normal toe grip

Photos: Central Virginia Parrot Sanctuary, Foster Parrots, and MAARS.

A Guide For Performing A Basic Physical Examination On Captive Birds In Your Care cont.

Author: Dr. Anthony Pilny, DVM, DABVP

| | | |
|--|--------|----------|
| Pectoral Musculature, Sternum: Sternum should be straight and slightly elevated or even with the Pectoral muscles, palpate for evaluation of weight, atrophy of musculature | Normal | Abnormal |
| Feathers, skin: Feathers and skin should be smooth and uniformly shaped and colored, evaluate for lesions and overpreening, plucking | Normal | Abnormal |
| Abdomen Palpation: Palpate below keel. Normal is slightly concave vs. distended with fluid or masses/organomegaly. | Normal | Abnormal |
| Auscultation/Heart/Lungs/Air Sacs: Normal heart rate and rhythm and clear respiratory sounds vs. heart murmur, abnormal respiratory sounds, wheezes, crackles, whistles | Normal | Abnormal |
| Cloaca and Vent: Mucosa of cloaca should be moist and pink, no feces or discharge should be present on feathers around the vent | Normal | Abnormal |
| Wings: Evaluate symmetry, range of motion, bony abnormalities, joints, Flight feathers vs. swellings, abnormal placement or flap, fractures (healed), color, shape and uniformity | Normal | Abnormal |
| Feet and Legs: Color and texture of skin should be uniform, scales present. Look for abrasions, calluses, erosions, ulcerations, broken toenails, missing toes, swollen joints, weak grip. If there is a leg band present on a pet bird, record band number (may have birth year). | Normal | Abnormal |
| Tail & Uropygial Gland: Normal tail feathers are clean, unbroken, unfrayed, and free from stress lines, evaluate uropygial gland for swelling, erythema, ulceration and rupture. | Normal | Abnormal |
| Nervous System: Alert and aware, normal mentation, appropriate reactions to stimuli, normal grip and posture. | Normal | Abnormal |
| Droppings: Normal appearance of formed feces (green/brown), white urates, and urine (clear, small amount) vs. diarrhea or polyuria, malodorous | Normal | Abnormal |

OBSERVATIONS/NOTES:



The
Avian Welfare
Coalition
www.avianwelfare.org

This information herein is intended solely for use by animal shelter and care facilities to accommodate the short-term care and housing needs of captive birds in a shelter setting; not recommended for long-term care. The above guidelines are specific to birds kept as "pets" and surrendered to shelters. For medical care relating to wild birds, consult with a licensed wildlife rehabilitation organization. These materials are made possible through a generous grant from the ASPCA.®

A Guide For Performing A Basic Physical Examination On Captive Birds In Your Care

Author: Dr. Anthony Pilny, DVM, DABVP

FOR SHELTER VETERINARIANS

Exam Date _____
Bird's Name _____
Hatch Date (if known) or approximate age _____
Species _____
Gender (if known) M F * How determined: veterinary records breeder certificate DNA sexed
Body Weight in Grams _____

MEDICAL HISTORY: *To be completed by shelter staff at intake*

Date of bird's last health examination _____
Wings: trimmed or full flighted _____
Diet _____
Past medical problems, past medications bird has taken _____
Current medical condition, current medications? _____

BEHAVIORAL HISTORY:

List any behavior issues: e.g. screaming, plucking, biting _____

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS:

Describe any abnormalities noted, or note if a system is not examined:

General Appearance & Attitude:

Bright, alert, responsive (BAR) vs. quiet and depressed/lethargic with feathers fluffed, standing on bottom of care/carrier, eyes closed, sick appearance

Normal Abnormal

Eyes:

Clear eyes, normal/blink/third eyelid and normal conjunctiva vs. discharge or ocular abnormalities (e.g. cataracts)

Normal Abnormal

Nares & Cere:

Clear, patent nostrils vs. discharge or hyperplasia of skin, plugged nares

Normal Abnormal

Beak/Mouth/Oral:

Proper occlusion and appearance vs. overgrowth or uneven with retained keratin.
Check tongue and mucous membranes for moisture and color and evaluate choana and papillae.

Normal Abnormal

Ears:

Open, clear vs. presence of discharge or erythema

Normal Abnormal