

Feather Picking Patient History Sheet

The information provided by you, the client, is essential in helping us diagnose the reason why your bird is losing feathers. The cause of feather picking can be very difficult to determine. Feather picking or loss may be caused by internal or external parasites, allergies, malnutrition, psychological problems, hormone deficiencies, organ dysfunction, bacteria, viruses, and toxins to name a few. As veterinarians it is our job to use the tests at our disposal to try to find the cause of your bird's problem. A cause may never be found!!!! It is possible that when a cause is found your bird may continue to pick feathers out of habit even after treatment! To help us diagnose your pet's problem as rapidly as possible please answer the following questionnaire in as much detail as possible. Thank you!

- 1) Where and when did you get your bird?
- 2) How old is your bird now?
- 3) How was the bird housed before you acquired it?

- 4) How is the bird housed now? Is it isolated, in a group, a household pet, in a breeding facility or in an aviary situation?

- 5) Describe the bird's cage or enclosure.

- 6) How often is the bird handled and by whom?

- 7) What do you feed your bird?

- 8) Any treats or table scraps?

- 9) Any vitamins or mineral supplements?

- 10) how often is your bird's water changed?

- 11) How often do you clean and disinfect the cage and the food/water dishes?

- 12) What cleaning products do you use?

- 13) Have you owned or kept birds before?

- 14) Do you have any other birds now?

- 15) Do you have any other pets?

- 16) What room in the house do you keep your bird?
- 17) Has the bird been kept in the same area or moved around?
- 18) Does your bird have exposure to the outdoors?
- 19) Has your bird been exposed to other birds? This could include shows, wild birds, your neighbor's birds, or being boarded.
- 20) When did your bird last molt?
- 21) What is the sex of the bird and how was this determined?
- 22) Has your bird ever exhibited breeding behavior?
- 23) Does your bird fly about the house or in a flight cage?
- 24) Has your bird ever been in a breeding situation? What was the result?
- 25) When does your bird vocalize the most?
- 26) When did you first notice your bird picking it's feathers?
- 27) What part of the bird was first affected
- 28) How often does your bird pick? Do you actually observe the picking?
- 29) Has the pattern of picking changed over time?
- 30) Has the severity of picking changed over time?
- 31) Has your bird been seen by another veterinarian for this problem?
- 32) when does your bird pick the most? The least?
- 33) Have any changes occurred in your life resulting in a change in your bird's routine?
Have you moved recently? Any new members in the household, people or pets? Have your work hours changed? Are you spending less time with your bird?
- 34) Are there any smokers in the house?