

## **VETS6306 Exotics and Wildlife Practice**

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# **VETS6306 Exotics and Wildlife Practice: Avian Module**

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## Introduction

### Avian Husbandry

#### Diet

- **All-Seed** –  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and **Vitamin A** deficient
- **Seed-Based**
  - ❖  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$ 
    - Soluble Grit – block, cuttlefish, eggshells, oyster shells
    - Soybeans
  - ❖ Vitamins
    - A – green or orange fruits / vegetables
    - D – cod liver oil
- **Pellets** – *Budgies* + *Cockatiels* + *Lovebirds*:  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  toxicity if >50% pellets

#### Environment

<b>Perch Branch</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wear their nails down</li><li>• Small diameter at one end and large diameter at the other</li><li>• Get <math>\frac{3}{4}</math> foot around</li></ul>
<b>No</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mirror</b> – ‘relationship’</li><li>• <b>Hammock</b> – Australian birds eat fibre, causing impaction</li></ul>

#### Treatments

- **Antimicrobials** – dose + duration + pathogen susceptibility + sick
- Prophylactic
  - ❖ Bacteria – **chlamydia**
  - ❖ Fungi
    - **Aspergillus**
    - *Waterbirds* recently placed in captivity, long-term Abx
  - ❖ Parasites
    - Aviaries
    - *Chickens* – *coccidia*
    - Pets – re-check

### Enrichment

Foraging > grooming + playing + socialising

#### Foraging Tree

- Site not near the cage
- Several stations (**5-7 / bird**) that require work to reach
- Set-Up
  - ❖ Lowest – ~50cm
  - ❖ Highest – below eye level of shortest
- Steps
  - 1) Small quantities of open food in each
  - 2) Something light to cover
  - 3) Something substantial to cover
  - 4) Random quantities
- **Advantages** – ↑ activity and Q.O.L., ↓ feather picking



## Physical Exam

Bring food, bring papers, remove water and cool / warm the vehicle

### Questions

<b>Signalment</b>	Age, breed, sex
<b>Husbandry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>History</b> – disease, diagnostics, treatment</li> <li>• <b>How long?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Old – husbandry, introductions</li> <li>❖ New – infectious</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Where is it housed?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Indoors – where, with whom, taken out, other animals</li> <li>❖ Outdoors – with whom, other animals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>What is in the cage?</b></li> </ul>
<b>Nutrition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calories</li> <li>• Macronutrients – carbs, protein, fats, fibre</li> <li>• Micronutrients – Ca, P, trace</li> <li>• Vitamins – A, D, E and C</li> </ul>
<b>Hygiene</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clean</b></li> <li>• <b>Disinfect</b></li> </ul>

## Physical Exam

### Head

- **Eyes**
  - ❖ Filoplumes
  - ❖ Iris – skeletal muscle: **PLR isn't consensual**, anisocoria
  - ❖ Pecten – vascular
  - ❖ Short optic n's. with **optic lobes**
- **Ears** – no pinna
- **Oral Cavity** – choanal slit, glottis, tongue
- **Beak**
  - ❖ Gnathotheca = lower, rhinotheca = upper
  - ❖ Pneumatised bone with keratin growing from the coronary band
- **Nostrils** – **cere**



Pecten



Ears



Nostrils

### Integument

- **Skin** – feather tracts
- **Propatagium** – shoulder to wrist along the cranial margin of the wing
- **Feathers**
  - ❖ Colour – pigment + structure
  - ❖ Clipping
    - Small = many, large = few
    - Primary wing feathers only
    - At coverts
  - ❖ Chicks – nothing → down + flight start → contour + flight finish
  - ❖ Adults – **moult 1-2 times / year**
- **Uropygial Gland** – base of the tail
- **Nails** – trimming

