

Parrot Behavior Consult Information Form

Feather Destructive Behavior

Date of Consult:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email address:

Do you regularly read any magazines devoted to parrot care and behavior? If so, please provide their names.

From which sources have you gotten most of the knowledge you have about parrots?

Species of parrot:

Name of parrot:

Age:

Sex:

Method of sexing:

Source (where did you get the bird?):

Age when acquired:

Weaned or unweaned when purchased?

If you purchased him as an unweaned baby, at what age was he weaned?

What information was given to you about the bird's past at the time you acquired him?

BEHAVIORAL PROBLEM:

When did the feather destructive behavior begin (month/year)? Was it gradual or sudden?

Has the bird ever mutilated his skin to the point that bleeding occurred?

Was there a “precipitating event” that triggered the feather abuse or mutilation? (This could include a change in diet, change in cage location, new bird/pet/human addition to household, interior decoration, exterior work on house, a boarding experience, or loss of buddy or human, etc.)

When does it occur during the day? Is it worse at any particular time of day?

Does the bird engage in this behavior only at night, or is it far worse at night than at other times?

Has the bird “feather-picked” in the past, stopped and then resumed picking?

Has the bird been chewing feathers long enough to see if there is a seasonal pattern? For instance, does he chew every spring, and then become feathered in the fall and winter months?

Does the parrot exhibit signs of increased reproductive activity? (More aggressive? Rubs vent on objects in cage? Paper shredding on bottom of cage? Etc?)

Do you actually see the bird chewing his feathers?

Does the bird chew his feathers when you are absent?

If you see him chewing his feathers, how does he act?

- Itchy or not itchy?
- Does he scream or vocalize when he pulls feathers?
- Agitated or calm?
- Does he interrupt himself when eating or playing with a toy to chew at this feathers?

When you see him chewing his feathers, how do you respond?

What emotions does this behavior evoke in you? If you had to rate your feelings on a scale of “1” to “10” where “10” meant that you thought about the problem many times throughout the day and felt extremely anxious about it...and “1” is a relative lack of concern about the problem, what rating would you give yourself?

Please describe the progression and pattern of the feather loss. Where did the original “plucking” start? Where did it go from there?

Which areas are most affected now? Does the bird have bald spots, and if so where? (For example: leggings, chest, back, wing web, flight feathers, tail, head)

Are feathers pulled, chewed off, or barbered?

What is the condition of the skin? Normal? Reddened, or any open wounds?

What is the condition of the feathers? Clean and shiny? Old and frayed? Smooth or rough?

How are wings clipped?

Has the bird ever had a “bad” wing clip (i.e. too short)?

Does the bird know how to fly? If he is flighted, how often does he choose to fly?

Please explain everything that you have done to solve the problem, indicating whether each thing you did resulted in improvement or not:

Please describe any other aspects of the bird’s behavior which trouble you, in addition to the feather picking behavior -things he does that don’t seem “right”, things which cause you concern, etc.:

Does the bird ever display signs of anxiety? Does he bite his nails? Does he twitch his head? Does he startle and fall or fly without control? If you observe any of these behaviors, how often do you see them?

Health:

Veterinarian’s name:

Telephone:

Does this vet specialize in exotic birds?

Has your avian vet seen this bird specifically for the feather destructive behavior?

If so, what tests were done? (Please have the veterinary records faxed directly to my attention).

Were any medications prescribed? If so, please provide the names of these and the duration of treatment.

Did you get all the medication into the bird?

In the case of infection, did you have the bird re-tested to verify that the infection was cleared by the medication?

If the bird has not been seen for the current problem, please provide the date of the last vet visit:

What tests were done at this last visit?

Has your bird ever been ill previously? If so, what was the diagnosis? Treatment?

Have droppings changed in color, frequency, consistency, quantity, smell?

ENVIRONMENT:

Family Life:

Adults living in the home:

Work schedules:

Children living in the home (names and ages):

Other Pets:

How does the bird respond to each of these pets?

Other Birds:

How do the birds respond to each other?

Who spends the most time with the bird? Which human does the bird prefer?

Is the bird allowed to perch on the shoulder, lap or knee of the favorite person? If so, for how long each day?

Are any of the other pets or family members ill?

How long is the bird alone during the day?

Is the bird quiet or vocal usually when you are home?

Does he entertain himself while in his cage?

What are his favorite activities?

Is there any animosity between residents (including pets) and the parrot?

Please alert me to any unusual life events, which you are experiencing at this time, which increase your own stress levels and/or anxiety? How long has this been going on? (These might include serious illnesses in family members, recent deaths, moves, job changes, etc.)

What changes have occurred in your life and relationship with the bird since you took him home? (More/less attention, addition of other birds/pets, job changes, schedule changes, etc.)

Does the bird engage in any repetitive behavior? (This might include circling in his cage, moving from side to side on his perch, etc. These would be behaviors that you might observe over and over and wonder about.)

Housing:

Please describe the cage size and type (including manufacturer, exact measurements, type of top, material cage is made of):

What type of perches are in the cage and describe their location:

If these are natural wood perches taken from the outdoors, what exactly is the plant name from which they were taken?

What is used in the bottom of the cage as substrate (newspaper, corn cob, etc.)?

Where is the cage located in the home? Is the cage in the main living area of the house? Is it located next to a window?

Is this room located over your garage?

Is there much activity in this room during the day?

Do you provide alternate perching sites? Playstands? Tabletop perches? Hanging perches? Does the bird travel around the house with you to these?

What toys does the bird have (please describe in detail)? How many in cage?

Does he play with them?

Do you provide an extra dish for foot toys?

Do you provide wood and other materials for chewing, and if so, does he chew on them?

General:

What are the major products you use for general cleaning (Ex: Clorox, Windex, types of soaps, disinfectants used on cage, etc.)

Are there carpets and do you use Carpet Fresh or other “dry” cleaners on them?

Is the bird exposed to any air-borne irritants? (These would include scented candles, fumes from non-stick cookware, air fresheners, carpet fresheners/cleaners, plug-in air fresheners, cigarette smoke, etc.)

What temperature do you keep your home?

Does anyone wear chemical perfumes?

Are fabric softeners used in cage coverings?

Do you smoke cigarettes?

Does anyone who smokes handle the bird? If so, do they wash their hands first?

What type of aerosol sprays are used? Room deodorizers, hair sprays, pesticides?

What houseplants does the bird have access to?

Social Activities:

Do you take your bird any places with you? If so, where?

What is a typical day like? What is his schedule? (Please answer in as much detail as you can, describing what he does from the time he wakes up until the time he goes to bed, describing especially your involvement with him, as well as that of other family members.)

How does the bird respond to activity happening close to his cage?

How does he respond to being alone? What does he do if you leave the room?

How often and for how long is the bird alone?

How often and for how long each day is the bird out of his cage?

What type of exercise does the bird enjoy (flapping, flying, exploring on the floor, etc)?

Describe in detail your best moments or experience with him in the last week:

Describe in detail your worst moments or experience with him in the last week:

Diet:

What type of pellets do you feed? Does he eat them? Do you have a separate dish in the cage for pellets?

Seed, what type (brand) and how much? Do you have a separate dish in the cage for seed?

Fresh foods (vegetables, fruits, beans, grains, etc), what kinds and how often? Do you have a separate dish in the cage for fresh foods?

At what times is the bird fed each day?

Does your bird eat table foods, and if so, how often does he share meals with you?

Favorite foods? What does your bird appear to eat or crave over other foods?

Treats? What is provided and when?

Do you give any kind of vitamins or other supplements? (If so – exact names, dosages, method of administration.)

Water source for drinking water (tap, filtered, bottled, etc)?

Do you add anything to the drinking water?

Please provide me with a “food diary” for three days, indicating everything that is fed, when it is fed, and whether he eats it or not. (This can be provided separately, but I do want a list of everything that is fed to the bird over a three-day period and what time of day it is given to him.)

Other:

How often does the bird get showered? Water source for this?

How do you shower him? Does he get drenched?

Does your bird have access to fresh air and sunshine or full-spectrum lighting?

If using full-spectrum lighting, what is the photoperiod (from when to when does the bird experience lighting of his environment)?

Where does the bird sleep? In his regular cage? In a different cage?

Do you cover the cage?

Is there a night light in the room where he sleeps?

Is there activity in the room after the cage is covered?

How long is the cage covered, or the room darkened each night? From when to when?

This was a lot of work. Thank you so much for your thoroughness and willingness to take the time to do this.