

Feather Destructive Behavior in Psittacine Birds

Lynne Seibert DVM, MS, PhD, DACVB
LafeberVet R.A.C.E. Provider #776-11130

- I. Feather damaging behavior in parrots
 - a. Problem definition
 - b. Etiology
 - i. Medical and physical causes
 - ii. Genetic factors
 - iii. Early rearing environment
 - iv. Environmental factors
 - v. Social factors
 - vi. Neurobiological factors

- II. Obsessive-compulsive spectrum disorders in humans
 - a. Obsessive-Compulsive disorder
 - b. Trichotillomania
 - i. Problem definition
 - ii. Similarities with feather damaging behavior

- III. Normal versus abnormal grooming behavior
 - a. Normal preening
 - b. Assessing the damage

- IV. Management of feather damaging behavior
 - a. Environment
 - i. Photoperiod
 - ii. Cage, perches, lighting
 - iii. Humidity, bathing
 - iv. Exercise
 - b. Occupational therapy
 - i. Foraging opportunities
 - ii. Training exercises
 - c. Sensory substitution
 - d. Competing response training
 - e. Avoidance devices
 - i. Collars
 - ii. Garments
 - f. Medication
 - i. Serotonin reuptake inhibitors
 - ii. GABA-agonists
 - iii. Opioid antagonists
 - g. Alternative therapies