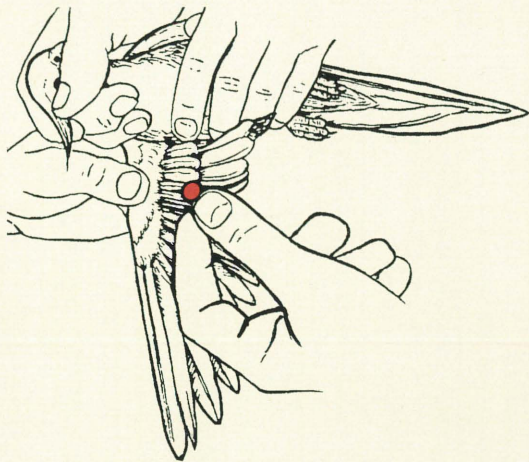


## First Aid for a Bleeding Feather

Identify the bleeding feather by cleaning with hydrogen peroxide or water. Pat a small amount of fine white flour onto the area to absorb the blood and create a "dough ball." The broken section can be trimmed later. If it continues to bleed, apply a drop of SuperGlue® directly to the dried, affected area of the feather. If bleeding persists, contact your veterinarian.



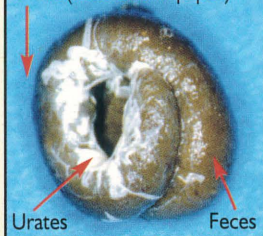
## How to Evaluate Your Bird's Droppings

Clean white paper or other smooth surfaces can be used to collect the droppings. The normal appearance of the feces is usually soft and brown when the bird is eating a formulated diet but may be abnormally dry and black, yellow or green with a seed diet. The normally clear urine may be increased in amount due to excess consumption of fruits and vegetables. Normal urates are creamy white waste from the kidneys and are often suspended in the liquid urine or are "wrapped around" the feces.

Any color change in the urates is abnormal. A sick bird may show a change in the volume, color, consistency or frequency of droppings. Feces from egg-laying females, baby birds on hand-feeding formulas and the first void of the morning may be larger than normal, and urine output may increase when the bird is nervous or ill.

### Normal Droppings

Urine (absorbed in paper)



## Short-term Home Care of Sick or Injured Birds

A warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]) is necessary for most birds that are sick or injured. Many commercial enclosures and incubators are available with heating systems. Alternatively, heat can be provided to an enclosure covered with plastic wrap by a hot water bottle, well insulated heating pad or 75-100 watt light bulb. Birds receiving supplemental heat from any source should be carefully monitored to prevent overheating. The temperature is too hot if the bird starts breathing rapidly (panting) and holds its wings out away from its body. The bird will remain fluffed up if the temperature is too cool.

A sick bird is usually not interested in eating, but food and water containers should be easily accessed with a minimal expenditure of energy. Sick birds that are too weak to perch or those with leg fractures or paralysis should be placed on thick paper towels or non-woven towels on the bottom of an enclosure. Small birds become debilitated faster than larger birds. A few drops of a warm, strong coffee solution with a high concentration of sugar may be administered by eyedropper to provide a burst of energy to a weak bird until it can be taken to the veterinarian. Gatorade®, Pedialyte® or Tyrode's solution may also be given to reduce dehydration. Do not give pet shop medications, creams or ointments to the bird. Do not give antibiotics except as prescribed by a veterinarian.

### "An Ounce of Prevention..."

The single most important factor in reducing the number of home emergencies with companion birds is to provide a balanced diet. Proper nutrition significantly reduces the medical attention required for feathers, skin, behavior, gastrointestinal disorders, bleeding, obesity, respiratory disorders, reproductive problems and some eye conditions.

Any new birds should be carefully evaluated before purchase, examined by a veterinarian and quarantined in the home for at least 45 days before contact with existing birds. Initial preventive treatment may be needed, and periodic health checks by your veterinarian are recommended. Learn enough about your bird to provide a proper, safe environment.

Avoid: unsupervised freedom, sources of lead, zinc, oils and ointments, cigarette smoke, insecticides, contact with other animals and children, hazardous objects in and near the cage, flimsily constructed or improper toys, overheated non-stick-coated utensils and overuse of disinfectants.

# FIRST AID

## FOR COMPANION BIRDS

### Dewinton Pet Hospital

#450, 412 Pine Creek Road, Dewinton, Alberta T0L 0X0

Tél: (403) 256-PAWS (7297)

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### A Quick Reference Guide for Emergency Care

# EMERGENCY FIRST AID



- A** Contact a veterinarian immediately! Use first aid only until bird can be seen.
- B** Conditions may briefly respond to first aid, but a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.
- C** Try these first aid suggestions. If results are not immediately seen, contact a veterinarian.

!	PROBLEM/SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE CAUSES	FIRST AID MEASURES
<b>A</b>	<b>Cloacal (rectal) prolapse</b>	Mass in cloaca; egg-binding; tumor; papillomatosis; malnutrition; excessive sexual stimulation.	Call veterinarian immediately.
<b>A</b>	<b>Laying on cage floor, weak</b>	Head trauma; toxin ingestion; overheating; central nervous system infection; tumor; severe metabolic disease.	For head trauma, keep cool (not hot or cold). See "Short-term Home Care" on reverse side until veterinarian can be seen.
<b>A</b>	<b>Limb – loss of use, paralysis</b>	<b>Leg:</b> paralysis; soft tissue trauma; fractures; tumors; egg-binding; gout; metal toxicities. <b>Wing:</b> soft tissue trauma; bony trauma; heavy metal toxicity.	Remove perches; provide quiet, warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). For broken wing, can slip a snug (not tight) stocking over the body (with the toe cut out for the bird's head).
<b>A</b>	<b>Poisoning</b>	<b>Ingested:</b> pesticides; disinfectants; heavy metals (tire balances, curtain weights, solder, wine bottle foil, leaded glass, galvanized wire); some plants; cigarettes; some foods like chocolate, alcohol, avocado, salt. <b>Inhaled:</b> Paint fumes; overheated non-stick coatings; barbecue smoke; cigarette smoke; hair spray.	<b>Ingested:</b> Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Ingestion of inappropriate items (called pica) may be a result of malnutrition. <b>Inhaled:</b> Provide fresh air, ventilation.
<b>B</b>	<b>Burns</b>	<b>Heat:</b> Contact with hot cooking oil, hot water or hot surface; chick fed formula that is too hot. <b>Electrical:</b> Biting electrical cord. <b>Chemical:</b> Ingesting caustic chemical.	Place bird in quiet environment. <b>Heat:</b> Immediately apply cold compress. May apply Soother Plus® <b>Chemical:</b> Immediately flush mouth with large amounts of cool water.
<b>B</b>	<b>Diarrhea/ Excess urine/ Wet droppings</b>	<b>If true unformed feces (pathologic):</b> virus, bacteria, fungi, parasites, poisons, chlamydiosis, foreign body or malnutrition. <b>If increase in fluid (polyuria):</b> stress, excitement; over-consumption of watery foods; kidney disease.	<b>Pathologic:</b> Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Place wax paper on bottom of enclosure to collect fresh feces for evaluation by veterinarian. <b>Polyuria:</b> Start on baby cereal mixed with 1 tsp. psyllium and 2 cups Gatorade® or reconstituted Tyrode's solution. Administer Pepto Bismol® (1 drop per cockatiel-sized bird).
<b>B</b>	<b>Egg-binding</b> (female: lethargy, abdominal enlargement or straining, previous nesting activity; common in small birds)	General malnutrition, especially protein, vitamin A, D <sub>3</sub> or calcium; first, soft-shelled or hybrid egg; over-production; hereditary factors; cold environment; lack of exercise.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Do not give oil orally or via vent.
<b>B</b>	<b>Eye abnormalities or discharge</b>	Injury; infection (virus, chlamydiosis, mycoplasma, coliforms); lid abnormalities; malnutrition; sinusitis.	Apply natural or hypo-tears to affected eye. Do not use Murine®, Visine® or antibiotic drops/ointments.
<b>B</b>	<b>Lacerations and cuts</b>	Injury; hazardous environment; fighting; flying into ceiling fans; bite wounds from other animals.	Pressure bandage to control bleeding. If injury is from animal bite wound, contact veterinarian immediately. Apply Soother Plus®
<b>B</b>	<b>Overheating</b> (panting, holds wings away from body)	No shade or retreat away from sun; left in car; improper supplemental heat; obesity.	Place feet and legs in cool water; mist feathers down to the skin with water (with a few drops of detergent).
<b>B</b>	<b>Passing whole seeds</b>	Gastrointestinal (GI) irritation or disturbance; grit obstruction; viral diseases; parasites; malnutrition.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Offer soft food.
<b>B</b>	<b>Respiratory symptoms</b> (coughing, sneezing, wheezing, runny nose, clicking, change of voice, breathing difficulties)	<b>Amazons, macaws:</b> Air sac or other respiratory infections from viruses, chlamydia, bacteria, fungi, parasites; malnutrition. <b>Budgies:</b> Iodine deficiency; tumors; obesity. <b>All species:</b> Foreign body in nares or trachea; egg-binding; irritation from cigarette smoke, plastic, rug cleaners.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]) except for obesity. Offer fresh air.
<b>B</b>	<b>Vomiting/ Regurgitation</b>	Normal regurgitation to mate; obstruction by foreign bodies; GI irritation or infection; poisoning (pesticide, heavy metal).	Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Remove food and water.
<b>C</b>	<b>Bleeding from feather</b>	Trauma; injury to pin feathers (growing out on trimmed wings with no mature feathers for support); malnutrition.	Prevent flapping. Clean affected feather and apply flour. If bleeding persists, apply a drop of SuperGlue®. See "First Aid for a Bleeding Feather" on reverse side.
<b>C</b>	<b>Bleeding from nail</b>	Nail cut too short; injury (caught, bite, unsafe toys, nail too long, improper diet, liver problems).	Minor bleeding stops with application of cornstarch, flour or bar soap. If fleshy quick is exposed, cut back flush with nail bed. Grind in Monsel solution, styptic pencil or Quick stop®.
<b>C</b>	<b>Oil contamination</b>	Contact with household oil; application of greasy, over-the-counter ointment or other medication; contact with oily substances.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F [29-32°C]). Remove oil immediately. If heavy oil, dissolve first with light oil. Remove with dish-washing detergent solution (eg, Dawn®), rinse, dry immediately (blot with towel and blow dry). Wrap bird in towel or blanket.

**Conditions requiring veterinary attention:** Contact a veterinarian if your bird shows any signs of unusual appearance or behavior, including: loss of appetite, weight loss, depression, weakness, unusual droppings, abdominal swelling, signs of trauma, seizures, loss of balance or favoring one leg or wing.