

Signs of Disease in Pet Birds

Disease Recognition

Recognizing disease in your birds is sometimes obvious. But, by the time the disease is obvious, it may be too late. So it is very important for you to know your birds "normal" or healthy behavior by observing them. The fact is, it's difficult to recognize when your bird is sick, especially in the early phases of illness. Birds are experts at hiding their symptoms of disease. This is a defense mechanism to insure their survival in the wild. Therefore, they often do not appear ill until their disease state is advanced. An alert, trained owner or veterinarian can recognize the subtle symptoms of early disease.

Learn how to prevent the spread of disease in your pet birds at: www.cdfa.ca.gov under the Avian Health Group tab.
Or you can learn other facts about disease prevention for birds at www.aphis.usda.gov under the "Biosecurity For the Birds" Program.



*How can I tell if my pet bird is sick?
Some signs of disease are:*



Respiratory : Frequent sneezing, gasping for air, coughing, discharge from mouth, nose, or eyes, swollen eyelids or labored breathing.

Gastrointestinal : Weight loss, loss of muscle mass from the breast bone, decreased appetite or water consumption, change in the color or consistency of droppings, soiled or pasted vent, vomiting or regurgitation of feed or water.

Neurological : Circling, twisting of the head and neck, partial or complete paralysis.

Change in physical appearance : Failure to replace old feathers, deformed feathers, persistent ruffled feathers, drooping wings, swollen joints, or deformities on legs, toes or wings.

Change in character or behavior : Inactivity, listlessness, eyes closed most of the time, vocalization stops or becomes quieter. Failure to stand erect on perch.

Urinary : Drinking large amounts of water, runny droppings (due to all the liquid in the droppings), weight loss in spite of normal food intake.

Reproductive : Problems with egg laying, fertility of eggs, or neonatal infections.

To guard against the risk of a future avian disease outbreak, CDFA and USDA formed the Avian Health Group. The Group promotes disease recognition and prevention for pet bird owners, backyard bird owners, hobby bird owners and the commercial avian industry.

1-800-491-1899

