MEDPET
THE SCIENTIFIC ALTERNATIVE

Newsletter

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Term: Summer Issue: 43 Nov 2026

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BASICS OF TREATMENT OF COMMON CAGE BIRD CONDITIONS.

This article targets mainly the single birds kept in a cage in the home or very small aviaries in the garden.

Aviary bird farms/enterprises would experience all these conditions but the problem in many cases would have to be investigated thoroughly because of the danger of possible spread of a disease through the whole flock.

Common conditions:

1. Diarrhea:

If a birds' behavior and appetite is normal but they have diarrhea you can use:

Entero-Plus or Intestum daily, until an improvement is seen and thereafter consider once weekly treatment.

Consider using Optigut daily to prevent this happening in the first place.

All the above work well in keeping the intestines healthy and as a result, general immunity is boosted.

If the bird is showing signs of ill health and is not eating, one of the following antibiotics can be given for **5 days:**

- **Avivet**
- **Mediprim/Medicox combination**
- **Medivital Plus**

It is advisable to add Entero-Plus to the antibiotics and continue for a further 5 days after treatment.

If you prefer giving something on the food then you can use Intestum. (Not very practical if a bird is not eating.)

If there is no immediate response to treatment, especially in cases where the bird is not eating, see your vet as soon as possible.

2. Respiratory symptoms

These are seen in the form of:
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Nasal or eye discharge
- Swellings around the eye (sinusitis)
- Difficult breathing shown by "tail bobbing".

The first line of antibiotics to use here would be:

Doxycycline products:
- **Doxybiotic S or Doxybiotic Plus**
- **Tylodox**
- **Doxybird tabs.**

These would be the products to use especially in suspected cases of Psittacosis/Ornithosis.
Consult a veterinarian if there is poor response to treatment.
They are particularly useful in cases where there is eye involvement

Other products that can be used as well:
- **Avisol**
- **Trimethoprim Sulfa**
- **Avivet**

3. Conditions affecting the skin, feathers, beak and feet

■ **Lice**
Lice can be seen with the naked eye. They are easiest to see on flight feathers.

Treatment:
- **Avian insect liquidator.**

This product can be sprayed directly onto the bird and the whole cage can be sprayed while the birds are in the cage.

■ **Quill mites, scaly face mites and scaly leg mites.**
These are all microscopic. Symptoms seen are in the form of scales on beak and cere and on the legs.
Diagnosis is confirmed by microscopic examination.

Treatment:
- **Scatt**
- **Moxidectin Plus**

4. Feather picking seen mainly in parrots

This is a common complex condition.
An article on this appears in the form of Newsletter no.16 on our website covering the condition in more detail.

Main basic causes are:
- **Boredom**
- **Stress**
- **Anxiety/loneliness**
- **It can also be due to skin infections/parasites/ allergies/nutritional deficiencies etc.**

If a parasitic condition is suspected, depending on the symptoms, use:
- **Avian Insect liquidator**
- **Scatt**
- **Moxidectin Plus**

Give your bird a supplement:
Premolt 5, Pals Parrot Tonic, Plume Plus and **Vitaton 34** will cover nutritional deficiencies and help with regeneration of new feathers.

In most cases identifying and attending to the primary cause gives best results. The primary causes are discussed in the newsletter.

Feather picking needs to be treated with the use of behaviour/ mood modifying medications, the application of which must be supervised by an avian veterinarian.

Supportive treatment guideline:

Use on a routine basis: Vitaton 34 500g

Feather health and use before and during moult:
- **Premolt 5**
- **Plume Plus**
- **Bath Salts**

Immune boosters:
- **Entero-Plus**
- **Intestum**
- **Optigut**
- **Medimune Forte**
- **Revive**

NOTE

This is a very basic "first aid" type article.
It was not intended as a comprehensive diagnostic guide.

If you get no response to any treatment suggested please consult your veterinarian.

Additional info can be found on our website (Medpet.co.za) under catalogue, programs, newsletters and common avian diseases.