

Nutritional Implications for Behavioral Changes

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Feather Picking

- Hyperkeratosis and/or squamous metaplasia.
- Malnutrition.
- Over growth of keratin structures.
- Abnormal fecal Gram's stain.
- Liver signs.
- Ovary and testes problems.

Feather Picking Malnutrition

- Hypovitaminosis A.
- Pigments?
- Fatty Acids.
 - ▶ Lacking.
 - ▶ Rancid
 - ▶ Not assimilated.

Feather Picking Malnutrition

- Chemicals.
 - ▶ Preservatives.
 - ▶ Colors.
 - ▶ Flavors.
 - ▶ Pesticides.
 - ▶ Synthetic vitamins.

Diet Related Feather Picking Treatment

- Liver restoration.
 - ▶ Lactulose
 - ▶ Milk thistle.
 - ▶ Fatty acids.
- Restore digestive function.
 - ▶ Apple cider vinegar.
 - ▶ Digestive enzyme.

Diet Related Feather Picking Treatment

- Ovary.
 - ▶ Luprolide acetate. Three injections at weekly intervals.
 - ▶ HCG and dexamethasone weekly for 4-6 weeks.

Diet Related Feather Picking Treatment

- Change diet to organic formulated nugget.
- Harrison's Nutriceutical ingredients.
 - ▶ Alfalfa.
 - ▶ Kelp.
 - ▶ Sea salt.
 - ▶ Spirulina.
 - ▶ Psyllium.
 - ▶ Montmetromelonite clay.

Diet Related Feather Picking Treatment

- Start on high fat, protein, vitamin, mineral product.
- Strictly limit fruit, seed, nuts.
- Keep fresh.

Mutilation

- Similar to picking only later in life.
- Ulcers, bleeding, lack of elasticity.
- Consumes pin feathers.
- Puritis.
- Advanced behavior problems
 - ▶ Screaming.
 - ▶ Biting.
 - ▶ Fearful.

Mutilation

- Wider organ involvement
 - ▶ Liver.
 - ▶ Ovary or testes.
 - ▶ Kidney.
 - ▶ Thyroid.
 - ▶ Adrenal.

Mutilation

- Droppings
 - ▶ Voluminous.
 - ▶ Smelly.
 - ▶ Biliverdinuria.
 - ▶ Loose.

Mutilation testing

- Fecal Gram's stain has gram negatives and yeast that are budding.
- Abnormal chemistries.
- Culture gram negative bacteria.

Mutilation Therapy

- ▶ Same as picking.
- ▶ Avoid salt in cockatoos.
- ▶ Behavior modification.
- ▶ Aloe – heparin – ammonia solution topically.

