

Case Reports: What Would You Do?

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Case 1

Signalment: 6 week-old blue and gold macaw

Chief complaints: Doing well until last night, had delayed crop emptying. Now has a bruise over its crop. The owner thinks the other nestling bit it.

Physical examination findings: The bird is well muscled, somewhat depressed, is pale, and has a subcutaneous haemorrhage between the crop and the skin.

What will you do next?

Case 2

- Signalment:* Three dead nestling neotropical parrots.
- Chief Complaints:* Owner is convinced that she has an infectious disease killing her chicks and that the great-billed parrots that she has been caring for that belong to her friend are the source of this infection.
- History:* This pet store owner/breeder has a very long history of successfully raising many species of parrots. All her parrots are incubator-hatched and she averages about 2% mortality each year prior to weaning. The veterinarian who provides primary care to her animals says that the birds that she produces are some of the most healthy he has ever seen.
- The first deaths in the aviary occurred 1 week after she took 4 nestling great-billed parrots into her nursery from another aviary. The deaths occurred in young (1-3 week old) parrots in the tubs immediately adjacent to the tub in which the great-bill chicks were housed. Deaths stopped immediately after the great-billed chicks went back to the owner. Two weeks later, 3 new great-billed parrot chicks from the same source were brought into the nursery. The chicks that you have died 5 days later and were in the tub adjacent to the great-billed chicks.

What will you do next?

Case 3

History:

He is a local breeder of lories and lorikeets (12 species). He has had excellent breeding success and has an excellent reputation. He has an opportunity to buy 7 pairs of rare birds. The birds are outwardly fine, but on blood PCR, 9 of 14 birds are positive for BFDV.

He really, really, really wants these birds and wants to know what your recommendation is. He has spoken to someone in the United States who has assured him that the BFDV in lories and lorikeets does not cause disease.

Case 4

Signalment: Six month-old Amazon parrot owned by a local pet store.

Presenting complaints: Fluffed up, sleeping more than normal, not eating

History: Has been in the store for 3 weeks, has shown signs for 48 hours

Physical findings: Scant dark faeces, sulfur-yellow urates, slightly thin (BCS 2.5/5)

What will you do next? (Your Baytril metre is broken!).

Case 5

A budgerigar breeder has recently purchased a new budgie (valuable breeding stock). He has quarantined it for 1 week and it is now in with his other birds. He brought you a dropping (not the bird) to be tested for Mega (*Macrorhabdus ornithogaster*)

How will you test the dropping, what will the results of this test mean?

Case 6

A breeder brings you a dead Amazon parrot. The bird is in excellent flesh. The owner wants a necropsy done. Do you do it yourself or send it off? If you do the necropsy, which tissues will you collect and how will you save them?

Case 7

Signalment: adult scarlet macaw, a female of the pair.

Chief complaint: The bird has been sick for 48 hours.

History: The owner, Mr. Dis B. Leaf has a large aviary containing many species. Generally he has been a very successful breeder. He rarely brings birds to the Vet because they haven't saved one yet!! This bird has been treated with Baytril and force feeding for 2 days. It has regurgitated several times.

Physical findings: The bird is thin, ataxic, and has a fluid filled crop. A firm structure can be felt in the right ventral abdomen just caudal to the sternum.

What will you do next? The owner wants you to work it up and fix it. He is willing to spend \$400.

Case 8

Signalment: 5 year-old male ring-neck dove named beaky

Chief Complaint: Fluffed up.

Physical findings: Labored breathing (with an exaggerated inspiratory component), abdominal distention, body condition score 2/5, and the urates are yellow.

What is your diagnostic plan?

Case 9

Signalment: Adult female Major Mitchell's cockatoo that is at least 10 years old. It is one of a pair and is owned by a breeder who lives in Townsville, Queensland. It is summer and it is hot.

Chief complaints: Was eating less over weekend and became dyspneic during capture.

The bird is sitting in a cage with a moderate dyspnoea. It has a moist audible respiratory sound. The owner wants to save the bird.

What is your plan? Do you want more history on the aviary?

Case 10

- Signalment:* Fourteen month-old Meyers parrot, named Stanley.
- Chief complaints:* Stopped playing and is sleeping more for the past few days.
- History:* Lives in a home where he comes out of the cage and is out with the owners much of the day. Is on a good diet and is a well adjusted bird with lots of toys. A cockatiel was introduced to the house 1 month ago. The cockatiel is not in direct contact with Stanley.
- Physical finding:* Slight weight loss.
- What will you do next?