

This tissue caused an issue! Recurring cloacal prolapse in a cockatoo.





In birds and reptiles, the cloaca is an organ where the feces and urine/urates are stored prior to being passed, with the vent being its outermost part. The cloacal lips control the frequency with which birds will eliminate their droppings. A prolapse occurs when the inner tissue protrudes through the vent opening resulting in exposed cloaca, intestines, and/or uterus. It can be due to medical causes, behavioral conditions, or both. It can occur in any bird that strains frequently. The condition requires immediate emergency veterinary care and temporary "tack" sutures applied to contain the prolapse. It is seen primarily in cockatoos and smaller birds like budgies, cockatiels, and conures.

If detected and treated early, surgery and behavior modification can correct the problem. Behaviors that should be avoided include stroking your bird, especially on the back; feeding your bird warm foods or feeding by hand or mouth; and cuddling your bird close to your body. A behavioral consultation is highly recommended for owners serious about trying to change their bird's behavior for the better.

Properly diagnosing the underlying cause is very important. A thorough history, bloodwork, fecal exams, and imaging are imperative. Once prolapsed, the cloaca becomes infected and even traumatized to the point that your bird can potentially bleed to death or require surgical intervention.

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You are what you eat, and when you ingest a metallic foreign object, it starts leaching toxic heavy metals into your system.

Our latest blog illustrates the importance of supervising your pet during playtime and being observant of small changes in behavior and appetite that are the first indications of a problem.

Quick action on his owner's part saved this little Quaker's life. Click the link below to learn more.

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