

EMERGENCY FIRST AID



- A** Contact a veterinarian immediately! Use first aid only until bird can be seen.
- B** Conditions may briefly respond to first aid, but a veterinarian should be contacted immediately.
- C** Try these first aid suggestions. If results are not immediately seen, contact a veterinarian.

!	PROBLEM/SYMPTOMS	POSSIBLE CAUSES	FIRST AID MEASURES
A	Cloacal (rectal) prolapse	Mass in cloaca; egg-binding; tumor; papillomatosis; malnutrition; excessive sexual stimulation.	Call veterinarian immediately.
A	Laying on cage floor, weak	Head trauma; toxin ingestion; overheating; central nervous system infection; tumor; severe metabolic disease.	For head trauma, keep cool (not hot or cold). See "Short-term Home Care" on reverse side until veterinarian can be seen.
A	Limb - loss of use, paralysis	Leg: paralysis; soft tissue trauma; fractures; tumors; egg-binding; gout; metal toxicities. Wing: soft tissue trauma; bony trauma; heavy metal toxicity.	Remove perches; provide quiet, warm environment (85-90°F). For broken wing, can slip a snug (not tight) stocking over the body (with the toe cut out for the bird's head).
A	Poisoning	Ingested: pesticides; disinfectants; heavy metals (tire balances, curtain weights, solder, wine bottle foil, leaded glass, galvanized wire); some plants; cigarettes; some foods like chocolate, alcohol, avocado, salt. Inhaled: Paint fumes; overheated non-stick coatings; barbecue smoke; cigarette smoke; hair spray.	Ingested: Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Ingestion of inappropriate items (called pica) may be a result of malnutrition. Inhaled: Provide fresh air, ventilation.
B	Burns	Heat: Contact with hot cooking oil, hot water or hot surface; chick fed formula that is too hot. Electrical: Biting electrical cord. Chemical: Ingesting caustic chemical.	Place bird in quiet environment. Heat: Immediately apply cold compress. May apply water-soluble cream. Chemical: Immediately flush mouth with large amounts of cool water.
B	Diarrhea/ Excess urine/ Wet droppings	If true unformed feces (pathologic): virus, bacteria, fungi, parasites, poisons, chlamydia, foreign body or malnutrition. If increase in fluid (polyuria): stress, excitement and over-consumption of watery foods; kidney disease.	Pathologic: Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Place wax paper on bottom of enclosure to collect fresh feces for evaluation by veterinarian. Polyuria: Start on baby cereal mixed with 1 tsp. psyllium and 2 cups Gatorade®. Administer Pepto Bismol® (1 drop per cockatiel-sized bird).
B	Egg-binding (female: lethargy, abdominal enlargement or straining, previous nesting activity; common in small birds)	General malnutrition, especially protein, vitamin A, D ₃ or calcium; first, soft-shelled or hybrid egg; over-production; hereditary factors; cold environment; lack of exercise.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Do not give oil orally or via vent.
B	Eye abnormalities or discharge	Injury; infection (virus, psittacosis, mycoplasma, coliforms); lid abnormalities; malnutrition; sinusitis.	Apply natural or hypo-tears to affected eye. Do not use Murine®, Visine® or antibiotic drops/ointments.
B	Lacerations and cuts	Injury; hazardous environment; fighting; flying into ceiling fans; bite wounds from other animals.	Pressure bandage to control bleeding. If injury is from animal bite wound, contact veterinarian immediately.
B	Overheating (panting, holds wings away from body)	No shade or retreat away from sun; left in car; improper supplemental heat; obesity.	Place feet and legs in cool water; mist feathers down to the skin with water (with a few drops of detergent).
B	Passing whole seeds	Gastrointestinal (GI) irritation or disturbance; grit obstruction; viral diseases; parasites; malnutrition.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Offer soft food.
B	Respiratory symptoms (coughing, sneezing, wheezing, runny nose, clicking, change of voice, breathing difficulties)	Amazons, macaws: Air sac or other respiratory infections from viruses, chlamydia, bacteria, fungi, parasites; malnutrition. Budgies: Iodine deficiency; tumors; obesity. All species: Foreign body in nares or trachea; egg-binding; irritation from cigarette smoke, plastic, rug cleaners.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F) except for obesity. Offer fresh air.
B	Vomiting/ Regurgitation	Normal regurgitation to mate; obstruction by foreign bodies; GI irritation or infection; poisoning (pesticide, heavy metal).	Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Remove food and water.
C	Bleeding from feather	Trauma; injury to pin feathers (growing out on trimmed wings with no mature feathers for support); malnutrition.	Prevent flapping. Clean affected feather and apply flour. If bleeding persists, apply a drop of SuperGlue®. See "First Aid for a Bleeding Feather" on reverse side.
C	Bleeding from nail	Cut too short; injury (caught, bite, unsafe toys, nail too long, improper diet, liver problems).	Minor bleeding stops with application of cornstarch, flour or bar soap. If fleshly quick is exposed, cut back flush with nail bed. Grind in Monsel's Solution®, styptic pencil or Quick stop®.
C	Oil contamination	Contact with household oil; application of greasy, over-the-counter ointment or other medication; contact with oily substances.	Provide warm environment (85-90°F). Remove oil immediately. If heavy oil, dissolve first with light oil. Remove with dishwashing detergent (eg. Dawn®) solution, rinse, dry immediately (blot with towel and blow dry). Wrap bird in towel or blanket.

Conditions requiring veterinary attention: Contact a veterinarian if your bird shows any signs of unusual appearance or behavior, including: loss of appetite, weight loss, depression, weakness, unusual droppings, abdominal swelling, signs of trauma, seizures, loss of balance or favoring one leg or wing.