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VET BRIEF

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## EGG BINDING IN AN ALEXANDRINE PARAKEET *PSITTACULA EUPATRIA*

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*plus web supplement of 1 page*

Egg binding or obstruction of oviduct occurs in all avian species. Hypocalcaemia may be an important factor in seed eating cage birds. This is an emergency condition that must be dealt with rapidly (Fowler, 1985). The present paper reports a case of egg binding in an Alexandrine Parakeet *Psittacula eupatria*.

A female parrot aged about 15 years was presented to the surgery clinic of Orissa Veterinary College with prolapse of cloaca. History revealed that the parrot was depressed with ruffled feathers and standing straddle-legged on the floor of the cage, restlessly moving back and forth. On examination an egg wrapped in the oviduct and presented through the cloacal opening was marked (Image 1<sup>w</sup>).

The condition was diagnosed as a case of egg binding and it was decided to release the egg by surgery. The parrot was restrained manually. One hand was used to hold the head securely by placing thumb and forefinger on the lateral surface

of mandible, while the other hand was used to control the body and legs. The prolapsed cloaca was irrigated with cold normal saline. Then the terminal part of the oviduct covering the egg and a portion of cloacal wall was given a small nick with a sterile b.p. blade (Image 2<sup>w</sup>) and the egg was released by gentle manipulation without breaking the shell (Image 3<sup>w</sup>).

The oviduct and cloacal walls were left unsutured which relapsed to their normal position (Image 4<sup>w</sup>). Multivitamin 2 drops (ABDEC drop 15ml, Pharmapake, Pfizer India Ltd, Mumbai) was administered orally thrice daily for five days along with oral cephalixin powder 30mg (Ceff DT 125mg, Lupine Lab, Mumbai) for three days. The parrot recovered uneventfully.

In the present case as the bird was depressed, physical restraint was used to control the parrot without chemical restraint. Immediate operation by incising the terminal oviduct wall and cloacal wall released the egg binding and saved the life of the parrot as obstruction of oviduct is an emergency situation in which immediate death may result from compression of large blood vessels of intestine or ureteral blockage as suggested by Fowler (1985). Since it was a caged parrot eating soaked peanuts, maize and seasonal fruits, the diet might have resulted in hypocalcaemia thereby causing egg binding.

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<sup>w</sup> See Images in the web supplement at [www.zoosprint.org](http://www.zoosprint.org)