

BIRD CLINIC FACILITIES



Dr McDonald is working at a bird clinic in a separate room with the owner present. Bird is anesthetized with its upper body under the exhaust hood. Waste gas is vented to the outside through the window.

As a mobile veterinarian, I travel to many different places in the United States to see birds that belong to bird breeders (aviculturists) and pet owners. Sometimes I work directly at an aviary for its owner. At other times I do clinics that are open to the public, in which birds belonging to many different individuals are seen. On some days I may work at only one site: other times I may visit 2 or 3 different places.

Over the years I've developed an extensive client list. Clients are made aware of my open clinics via e-mail announcements, word of mouth, or by checking the calendar section of my web site. Each bird clinic has a local contact person. This person takes appointments, gives directions, and answers questions.

Owners are instructed to fast their birds (food and water) for at least 4 hours before coming to the clinic. The crop needs to be empty (or almost) to prevent passive regurgitation while the bird is anesthetized. Owners are told to bring their own towels. These will be used to catch only their own birds which helps prevent any cross contamination. Owners are also told to bring their birds in a carrier or cage, not on their shoulder.

All procedures are performed in a separate room which is clean, orderly, and odorless. Aside from me, only the owner(s) and my assistant are allowed in this room, or the immediate area, while the bird is being examined. Waste anesthetic gas is properly vented from the room to the outside to prevent unnecessary exposure. This is more thoroughly discussed in the section on inhalation anesthesia.

Picture 1 Dr McDonald working at a bird clinic in a separate room with the owner present. Bird is anesthetized with its head and upper body under an exhaust hood.