

MEDICAL RECORDS



Since 2008, all my medical records have been computerized. I have a Lenovo ThinkPad computer which I take with me on all my business trips. I use Windows 7 and a database that was created using Microsoft Access.

I hired a computer database consultant to build and implement this record keeping system which is streamlined for my specialized practice. Modifications to the database are made annually.

Each new client must sign an “Informed Consent Document” and fill out a “Client Information Form” which includes owner and bird information that is imputed into the database on the first visit. Individual pet bird information includes type of bird, name, band number and microchip number (if any), sex, tattoo, and age.

Every visit of each pet bird is recorded. It includes the date, reason for visit, anesthesia (if given), weight, weight description, procedures performed, history and clinical findings, diagnosis, laboratory tests performed and treatments given (if any), and pertinent client communication.

Breeder birds, which are usually presented for surgical sexing, have records that are kept in a separate file. Information recorded includes type of bird, sex, age, band number, and noteworthy comments. These birds are not “pets” but are part of a flock or aviary, and are rarely seen more than once.

A permanent archive of all bird records is kept for all clients. Medical records are kept indefinitely. If a client wants a copy of their bird’s record, it can be provided at any time. I bring an HP mobile printer to all my clinics so that I can provide an immediate hardcopy or a digital copy of the record can be sent via email.

Each new client also receives a handout entitled “Postoperative Home Instructions.” Business cards are always available.