



## **Scott E. McDonald, DVM AVIAN LAPAROSCOPY**

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## **POSTOPERATIVE HOME INSTRUCTIONS**

### **FOR ALL BIRDS...**

1. Keep the bird warm. 75-80°F is recommended.
2. Limit activity for first few hours when you get home.
3. Offer food and water as soon as you get home.

No matter what procedures were done today, it is not uncommon for the bird to be unusually quiet and subdued for the next 24 hours. The appetite may be off as well.

However, if the bird doesn't seem right for more than one day or if you are concerned about anything, don't hesitate to contact me. Call my cell phone first. Also don't hesitate to contact a local avian veterinarian for advice or care if there is any kind of complication.

### **WATCH FOR BLEEDING**

It could be coming from a toenail, tip of upper beak, blood feather, or the surgical site if your bird was sexed. A small amount of blood mixed in the droppings is normal. This is the result of inserting a Q-tip into the vent during the exam. This will pass quickly.

### **SEE IF YOU CAN STOP THE BLEEDING ON YOUR OWN**

Use anti-coagulant powder or gel on the area that is bleeding. Corn starch or flour are other options. As a last resort, heat up a butter knife with a flame, then apply the hot, flat edge against the nail or beak tip.

**If you can't stop the bleeding, bring the bird back to the clinic immediately or seek local help.**

### **IF YOUR BIRD'S NAILS WERE TRIMMED...**

1. Some birds may be sore for a few days and reluctant to move about. They may hold their foot up as if it hurts.
2. Some birds will have a poor grip for a few days. Be careful they don't fall.
3. Watch for any bleeding on the perch or cage paper.

### **IF YOUR BIRD'S BEAK WAS TRIMMED...**

1. Some birds are sore, especially if an excessive amount was trimmed from the tip.
2. Some birds are reluctant to eat seeds or pellets for a day or two. If so, offer soft table foods.
3. Watch for any bleeding from the beak tip or edges.

### **IF YOUR BIRD'S WINGS WERE TRIMMED...**

1. Be careful the bird doesn't try to fly too quickly or too often and ends up crashing onto a hard surfaced floor. Some birds can injure the skin over their keel bone if they fall too often.
2. Watch for any bleeding from a blood feather or from an empty follicle if I pulled any broken feathers.



## **IF YOUR BIRD WAS MICROCHIPPED...**

1. Keep the bird in its cage for a minimum of 4-6 hours when you get home, especially if the wings and nails were also trimmed. Limit activity. If the bird tries to fly too soon and lands on its chest, bleeding could occur, sometimes profusely.
2. If bleeding occurs, use hydrogen peroxide soaked tissues to clean the area. Then use direct pressure over the site for 5-10 minutes.
3. Watch for any swelling, which could be the formation of a hematoma (blood blister). If this happens, use direct pressure as above and contact me.

## **IF YOUR BIRD WAS SURGICALLY SEXED...**

1. Owners should monitor the bird(s) closely over the next few days for any signs of illness. These might include inactivity, not eating, being fluffed, body swelling, labored breathing, and bleeding.

### **CALL ME (OR A LOCAL VETERINARIAN) IF YOU THINK THERE ARE ANY COMPLICATIONS OR IF YOU ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ANYTHING.**

2. If the bird is housed in a large outdoor flight, it should be kept in a carrier for several hours before being released into its enclosure. If the weather is favorable and the outdoor cage is small, then the bird can be recovered directly to its cage.
3. If the weather is excessively hot (90°F or higher), the bird should be kept in a carrier or cage, in a cool place, until early evening when the temperature drops. Then put it back outside.
4. If the weather is cold or rainy, birds should be kept in a warm environment for several hours before being released back into their outside cage.
5. If the procedure is done after dark, birds should be kept in their carrier until the next morning.
6. Birds housed indoors can be returned to their cage as soon as they are fully awake. Food and water can be offered 30 minutes after recovery.