

Performing an Avian Exam Checklist

Date _____ Technician _____

1. Observation

Bird

- Normal/BAR/singing
- Abnormal/QAR/depressed
- Fluffed up/on bottom of cage
- Squinting/eyes closed
- Heavy breathing/panting/tail bob

Cage

- Size/appropriate/too small/too large
- Spacing of bars/ appropriate/too far apart
- Clean/needs cleaning
- Consistency of droppings
- Proper substrate/improper substrate
- Perches/too many/not enough/ wrong kind/too large/too small
- Bowls/proper size/proper amount/proper location
- Food/pellets/seed/fresh food/treats
- Toys/appropriate size/appropriate quality/appropriate amount

2. Weight _____ grams

- Appropriate weight/too thin/too heavy

3. Feathers

- Normal/abnormal
- Feather loss
- Stress bars
- Damaged/broken/shredded/plucked
- Blood feathers
- Unzipped barbules
- Dull
- Greasy
- Stained
- Abnormal color
- Masses
- Lack of powder down (species specific)
- Preen gland normal/abnormal

4. Skin

- Normal/abnormal
- Dry/flaking
- Redness/inflammation/blood
- Pitting on the surface

- Masses

5. Head

- Normal/abnormal
- Symmetry
- Inflammation
- Bruising

6. Eyes

- Normal/abnormal
- Symmetry
- Discharge
- Opaque lens
- Masses
- Ophthalmic exam performed Yes/No

7. Beak

- Normal/abnormal
- Symmetry
- Abnormal wear/scissor beak/over bite/under bite
- Pitting on the surface/severe flaking/cracks

8. Nares

- Normal/abnormal
- Symmetry
- Blockage
- Discharge/blood
- Masses

9. Ears

- Normal/abnormal
- Inflammation
- Odor
- Discharge

10. Oral Cavity/Mouth

- Normal/abnormal
- Abscesses
- Epithelial plaques
- Epithelial projections in tact/missing
- Necrotic tissue
- Masses

11. Crop

- Normal/abnormal
- Distended/doughy/empty
- Bruising/burns/fistula
- Foreign body
- Masses

12. Keel Bone and Pectoral Muscle

- Normal/abnormal
- Too thin/too heavy

13. Wings

- Normal/abnormal
- Range of motion/joint integrity
- Broken feathers/blood feathers/missing feathers
- Fractured or dislocation of wing
- Ulcers/masses
- Ectoparasites

14. Cloaca

- Normal/abnormal
- Clean/accumulation of feces/diarrhea
- Signs of dilation or prolapse of tissue
- Masses

15. Feet/Legs

- Normal/abnormal
- Symmetry
- Range of motion
- Feet grasping strong/weak
- Plantar erosion/gout
- Scaly skin/ulcers/scabs/inflammation/necrotic tissue
- Masses
- Nail length/normal/abnormal
- Broken/missing/damaged

16. Abdomen

- Normal/abnormal
- Ascites
- Eggs
- Hepatomegaly
- Masses

17. Hydration Status

- Normal/abnormal

References:

Exotic animal Care – Tully and Mitchell

Exotic Animal Medicine for the Veterinary Technician – Ballard and Cheek