

AVIAN ALERT

SIGNS OF SICKNESS IN PET BIRDS

- APPETITE** When birds develop sickness, they become nervous, defensive, and fearful. In turn, their appetite and attitude toward food is affected. Understanding this, bird owners can detect important, early signs that something is wrong by *paying close attention to their birds at mealtime!*
- DROPPINGS** Change in the character of the droppings or a decrease in the *number or volume.*
- ACTIVITY** Change in activity-the bird becomes *less active, talks less, sings less, and neglects beak and toenail care.*
- MOOD** Change in attitude, *decreased friendliness, increased "grouchiness."*
- APPEARANCE** Change in the bird's appearance or posture. Seriously sick birds generally *ruffle their feathers, begin closing their eyes in a sleepy fashion and will sit low on the perch (droopy).*
- BREATHING** Any noticeable breathing while resting or heavy breathing after exertion, a change in character of the voice or any *unusual respiratory sounds- sneeze, wheeze, or click*
- LUMPS** Any *enlargement- even fat* is abnormal in birds.
- LESIONS** Unusual crustiness, *discoloration or inflammation of the face, beak, feet or legs.*

*Bird owners will want to be watchful of their bird's health.
Annual physical examinations are a good investment.
Every new bird needs a complete physical. It's one of the most important
examinations of his/her life.*

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