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THERAPEUTIC MANAGEMENT OF SOME DISEASES MET IN CAGE BIRDS FROM PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

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Abstract

Currently, exotic birds have a high demand on the market; requiring care in general not too complicated, birds are a good choice for animal lovers, especially children. This paper presents the treatments carried out in diseases found in canaries, Amazon parrots, Agapornis (lovebird), parakeets, nymphs, Australian zebras. The study was partially conducted in a singing canaries farm located in Voluntari, Ilfov County; the farm includes 250 birds, grouped by age, sex and physiological status. The second part of the study was performed in Clinics of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest, by examining the cage birds that presented to consultation. Bacterial diseases were the most commonly found in canaries - a respiratory infection and 3 cases of bacterial enteritis. Antibiotherapy with Adeno-Coli-Mix product (amoxicillin, colistin sulphate, nitrofurazone) has been successfully used in canaries diagnosed with colibacilosis. In the 2 cases of cage birds diagnosed with enteritis, Enroxil product was used. Traumatic disorders caused by accidents inside the cage disappeared after implementing measures of birds' insulation into smaller spaces in order to avoid additional effort and drug therapy with Metacam. Stress disorders and nutritional deficiencies were represented by feathers consumption, massive moulting and a case of stress adaptation; therapy aimed at correcting the diet and supplementation with vitamin products.

Key words*: cage birds, canaries, enteritis, traumatic disorders, nutrition.*

INTRODUCTION

Currently, exotic birds have a high demand on the market; speaking or singing, beautiful or intelligent, requiring care in general not too complicated, birds are a good choice for animal lovers, especially children.

Birds have specific needs regarding food, environmental conditions and care, and failure to comply with these needs can lead to medical problems of varying intensities (Fowler and Miller, 2003; Girling, 2013; Mayer and Donnely, 2013; Paunescu, 2011).

As low the bird would be, its life and health cannot be measured in money, but in its owner's affection.

The Law for the Protection of Animals says in an article: *the purpose of this law is to establish people's responsibility for their animal as a fellow, whose life must be protected* (Carpenter and Marion, 2013).

Diseases encountered in all species of birds, as many are really researched, would fill thousands of pages; therefore, this paper presents the treatments carried out in diseases found in canaries, Amazon parrots, Agapornis (lovebird), parakeets, nymphs, Australian zebras.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was partially conducted in a singing canaries farm located in Voluntari, Ilfov County; the farm includes 250 birds, grouped by age, sex and physiological status; all birds are marked with a ring around the leg and disinfested regularly (disinfestation of the environment is made with Duramitex Plus and the individual disinfestation is made with Foractil spray for birds) (Ghinăraru, 2016).

The second part of the study was performed in Clinics of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of

Bucharest, by examining the cage birds that presented to consultation (Ghinăraru, 2016).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The diseases found in the Voluntari farm were:

- *colibacillosis* - manifested in general without affecting the general condition, by the presence of green-gray diarrheic faeces. Dissemination of infection was achieved by faeces, both in birds in collective aviaries and individual cages, due to the bird's behaviour to scrape the litter. The treatment was implemented in the form of medicated water, using the product Adeno-Coli-Mix (amoxicillin, colistin sulphate and nitrofurazone), at a dose of 5 g/2 litres of water daily, for 5 days. As a support medication, Detoxicum product was used at a dose of 4 g/litre of water, 5 days (this product is a herbal supplement, with role in sustaining hepatic and digestive functions).
- *fractures and luxations* –were encountered particularly by catching one's legs between the bars of the cage or in fighting between males. The birds were placed in a small cage, for limiting the motion, in a quiet and sheltered spot; medicinal treatment consisted of the administration of anti-inflammatory drugs – Metacam – 0.05 ml diluted in 0.5 ml saline solution; it was administered 0.1 ml orally/day, with a syringe without a needle, until the completion of the entire quantity. In fractures, after cleaning the place, layered bandages were used, which ensure good fixing and do not have hard edges that could injure the bird; these bandages were maintained for 10 - 15 days;
- *moulting* (massive) – normally, feathers fall gradually, their absence is not seen on the body of the bird, but in massive moulting stopping or retarding the growth of new feathers occurs, the birds showing large areas of bare skin. The treatment consisted of birds' isolation in quiet location, dietary supplementation with niger seeds, Oropharma Muta-Vit (1 g/100 ml drinking water) and vitamin A (5 – 10 drops in drinking water) (Ghinăraru, 2016).

The birds examined in the Clinics of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Birds examined in the Clinics of Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest

No.	Species	No. of cases	Clinical signs	Diagnostic	Treatment	Evolution
1.	Amazon parrot	1	Circular movement, head left on one side, lack of appetite	Vestibular syndrome	Enroxil 0.01 ml orally/day, 5 days Dexamethasone 0.01 ml orally/day, 3 days Betaserc ¼ cp pulverized, orally Duphalyte 2-3 drops/day, orally	Favourable Vertigo disappeared after 3 days Treatment was continued for another 4 days
2.	Agapornis (lovebird)	3	1). Slightly messy around the beak, present appetite but with empty throat, 42ºC	Suspicion of cryptosporidiosis	Enroxil 15 mg/kg orally, 4 days (0.2 ml Enroxil diluted with 0.8 ml saline solution, from which 0.1 ml were administered daily) Berforvel 0.1 ml/day, 4 days	Unknown
			2,3). Pair with faecal consistency slightly modified, greenish	Enteritis	Enroxil 4 days Duphalyte 10-15 drops/100 ml drinking water, 4 days	Favourable Faeces returned to normal after 2 days of treatment
3.	Parakeets	4	1). Left leg slightly deflected laterally; without signs of inflammation	Suspicion of luxation	Metacam 0.005 ml orally/day, 4 days Mixture of Duphalyte 5 ml, Glucose 5% 5 ml, vitamin C 0.5 ml administered in drinking water – 1 ml/day, 5 days	Favourable It was recommended to continue treatment for another 3 days

			2). A pair – the female is pecking male's feathers frequently, especially those on the head and chest	Feathers eating	Selevit-E and vitamin AD_3, a few drops in drinking water for 7 days, then once every two weeks	Favourable The female is pecking less the male, it no longer consumes feathers
			3). General condition is changed, it presents obvious respiratory effort, closed eyes, nostrils slightly deformed	Respiratory infection	Enroxil 5 days A teaspoon of honey mixed with drinking water	The bird did not survive (it died after 2 days of treatment)
			4). Normal plumage, elevated heart rate	Accommodation stress	Duphalyte 2-3 drops in drinking water, with the recommendation to keep the bird in a quiet location to accommodate the new environment	Favourable
4.	Nymph	1	Sad, ruffled feathers, agglutinated, dirty feathers around the cloaca	Enteritis	Enroxil 1 ml/200 ml drinking water, 4 days Multivitaminico alimentary supplement, 12-16 drops in 200 ml water	Normal faeces after 4 days of treatment; antibiotic continued for another 2 days and vitamin complex for another 10 days
5.	Australian zebra	1	Abdominal decubitus, legs wide apart (penguin position)	Suspicion of egg retention	Maintaining at heat, application of vegetal oil around the cloaca	The bird has not expelled the egg during the examination; the owner did not return
6.	Canary	1	Avoids the support on the leg caught earlier between the cage bars. Appetite present	Contusion	Metacam 0.005 ml/orally/day, 4 days The bird was isolated in a smaller cage to avoid extra effort	Inflammatory signs disappeared, the bird regained the support in the left leg

CONCLUSIONS

The most commonly diseases found in canaries were bacterial diseases - a respiratory infection and 3 cases of bacterial enteritis. Antibiotherapy with Adeno-Coli-Mix product (amoxicillin, colistin sulphate, nitrofuran) has been successfully used in canaries diagnosed with colibacilosis.

In the 2 cases of cage birds diagnosed with enteritis, Enroxil product was used with a demonstrated usefulness of support medication with Duphalyte, Multivitaminico, Detoxicum products throughout the period of antibiotic therapy. Birds treated had favourable evolution.

Traumatic disorders disappeared after birds' insulation and drug therapy with Metacam.

In case of fracture, fixation of the member with a bandage determined a partially or totally recovery of the affected limb functionality.

Stress disorders and nutritional deficiencies were represented by feathers consumption, massive moulting and a case of stress adaptation.

The results of treatment with vitamin products – Oropharma Muta-Vit, vitamin A, Selevit E and AD_3, Duphalyte were a success.

In the case of a vestibular syndrome, the evolution was favourable after treatment with Enroxil, Dexamethasone, Betaserc, Duphalyte.

The efficacy of treatment in birds (and other animals of course) depends heavily on the promptness and accuracy of medication implementation, and the strict compliance with the hygiene and microclimate conditions necessary for each species.

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