

## Avian Feather Destruction History Form

Client Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Patient Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Instructions:** Feather destruction disorder is a complex problem in pet birds. In many cases, several environmental and/or medical issues are involved. A comprehensive history is an essential part of diagnosing and treating this condition. Please answer the questions below with as much detail as possible. Thank you.

### Extent of the problem

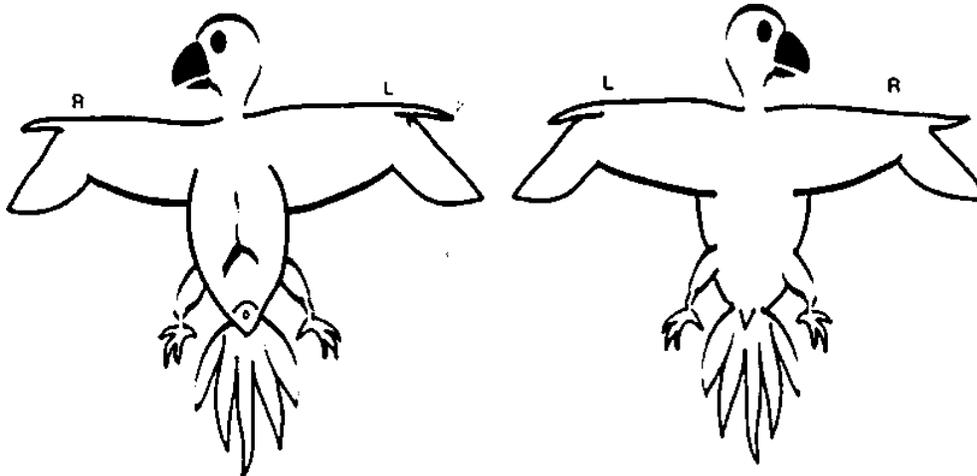
Does your bird (check all that apply):

- Chew feathers    Pull out or pluck feathers    Mutilate skin  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your bird appear to be itchy? (Signs of itchiness include scratching with the feet, rubbing on the cage or perches, and scratching the skin with the beak):

- No    Mildly or occasionally    Moderately to severely    Unsure

On the drawings below, please shade in the area(s) that your bird picks or mutilates:



## **Onset and progression**

When did your bird start self-picking/mutilating? (This is the "onset" date)\_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box that best describes the **onset** of the problem:

- Sudden (one day the bird started self-picking/mutilating dramatically)
- Gradual (the onset was subtle)
- I don't know, the bird was this way when I acquired him/her

Please check the box that best describes the **progression** of the self-picking/mutilating

- Improving: the severity has decreased since it started
- Static: the severity has not changed over time
- Progressive: the severity has become worse over time
- Episodic: my bird plucks/mutilates sometimes, but then lets the feathers grow back
- Intermittent: the picking/mutilating occurs every day (or almost every day) but is worse on some days than others

**Patient Profile:** Check ALL the boxes that best describe your bird:

My bird was:     hand raised     captive bred but not hand fed     wild caught     I don't know

My bird:     loves most people     loves one person and is indifferent or hostile toward others  
 is tame but not attached to any particular person     doesn't seem to like people

My bird loves to be scratched or cuddled:     always     sometimes     never

My bird chews/plays with toys:     every day     occasionally     seldom/never     I don't know

My bird enjoys:     wood toys     plastic toys     rope toys     metal toys     leather     puzzles  
 paper/cardboard     mirrors     swings     no toys     other: \_\_\_\_\_

My bird is fearful of or seems to hate:     being left alone     loud noises     dogs     cats     adults  
 children     strange people     strange animals     new places     new toys     other:

My bird demonstrates sexual behavior (mounting, masturbation, regurgitation):  
 Frequently     Occasionally     Never     Towards human(s)     Towards other bird(s)

My bird is:     Very Active     Moderately Active     Not very active

My bird is:     Very vocal or noisy     Moderately vocal or noisy     Quiet

My bird is:     Trained to obey commands (e.g. "step up," "no biting"), and is usually obedient  
 Trained to obey commands, but is often inobedient or only obeys one person  
 Not trained to obey any commands

My bird's wings are clipped:     Always     Sometimes     Never    Who clips them? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your bird seem to have any other behavioral or medical problems other than feather destruction/mutilation?     No     Yes    If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Family and Flock History**

How many people live in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your bird especially fond of one family member?     No     Yes: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you own any other birds? No Yes

List any birds that share a cage with the bird that is here today\_\_\_\_\_

List any other birds\_\_\_\_\_

Is this bird friendly toward any of the other birds? No Yes:\_\_\_\_\_

Is this bird aggressive toward any of the other birds? No Yes:\_\_\_\_\_

Does this bird pick feathers from another bird? No Yes:\_\_\_\_\_

Does another bird pick feathers from this bird? No Yes:\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any other people or pets that interact with your bird and indicate if your bird seems to enjoy the interaction:\_\_\_\_\_

### **Environmental History**

Does your bird receive sunlight? Yes No

Does your bird receive ultraviolet light? Yes No

Does your bird take baths on his/her own? Yes No

Do you bathe your bird? Yes No If yes, how and how often?\_\_\_\_\_

About how many toys does your bird have in its cage at one time?\_\_\_\_\_

How often are toys changed or rotated?\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours per day does your bird spend alone (no people in the same room)?\_\_\_\_\_

Does your bird have daily access to the following: Window Television Radio

Describe any other diversions you provide:\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the area around your bird's cage:\_\_\_\_\_

**Changes:** Did any of the following occur **within 3 months prior to the onset date?** If yes, please give date(s) and describe:

Environmental changes:

Move to new home:\_\_\_\_\_

New cage:\_\_\_\_\_

Cage moved to different location in home:\_\_\_\_\_

House or cage changed in some way:\_\_\_\_\_

Flock changes:

Has anyone been added to your family (e.g. birth, adoption, marriage, or moving in)?\_\_\_\_\_

Has anyone left your family (e.g. death, divorce, or moving out?)\_\_\_\_\_

Have any birds or other pets been added to your home?\_\_\_\_\_

Have any birds or other pets been removed from your home?\_\_\_\_\_

Have there been any changes in the amount of time you and/or other family members spend with your bird? Please consider situations (e.g. travel, increased workload, new job, baby, schedule, hobby) that may have changed the amount of time spent with your bird?\_\_\_\_\_

Did your bird's favorite person leave the home for any length of time (e.g. vacation)?\_\_\_\_\_

Medical changes:

Skin Wound Parasites Other:\_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any other changes in the environment, feeding or social life of the bird:\_\_\_\_\_

**How do you respond when you see your bird picking or mutilating?**

- Ignore the behavior
- Scold the bird or give it some form of punishment. Describe \_\_\_\_\_
- Pick up the bird or give it some sort of affection or diversion. Describe \_\_\_\_\_
- The bird picks/mutilates only when no one is there to see it happening
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Have you used any of the following to stop the picking/mutilation?**

- Collar       Bandage       Acquired another bird
  - Bitter substance placed on feathers: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Conditioner or medication sprayed on feathers: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Oral medication, herbal supplement, or homeopathic remedy: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Behavioral modification or training: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other: \_\_\_\_\_
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