
Indications and Use of Harrison's Organic Formulated Food in a Veterinary Practice: How to Convert Birds and Clients

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INDICATIONS AND USE OF HARRISON'S BIRD FOOD IN A VETERINARY PRACTICE

The use of the Harrison's premium, certified organic, formulated bird food can help to maintain the bird health and lead to better therapy results in bird diseases. Here a few examples of already clinically tested applications:

Lipomas in Budgerigars, Amazons, Galahs and Blue and Gold Macaws

Within the first 8 weeks, the birds should receive limited quantities of High Potency Coarse or fine or super fine (15% resp. 12% fat), fruits and vegetables. Already during this diet change from seed mixtures or table food a slight body weight reduction can mostly be experienced. After these 8 weeks the birds will get the following limited daily rations of Adult Lifetime Coarse or fine or super fine (5% resp. 6% fat) until they reach their ideal body weight:

- approximately 4 g per budgerigar
- approximately 15-20 g per Amazon or galah
- approximately 20-25 g per blue and gold macaw.

To satisfy eventual urge of hunger, fresh vegetables or fruits should be offered, e.g., 2 g per budgerigar, 5 g per Amazon or galah and maximum of 15 g per blue and gold macaw. After arriving at the desired weight, the food amount will be increased so far as to maintain the reached body weight. At this stage, the lipomas have generally completely disappeared. The surgical removal of the rest is not necessary!

Chronic Disturbances of the Normal Bacterial Intestinal Microflora, Occurrence of Potentially Pathogenic Bacteria in the Gut

Experience has shown that the use of antibiotics rarely has a long-term success in cases of infection with potential pathogenic bacteria in the gut. The diet change of your patients from the conventional seed mixtures to the Harrison's premium, certified organic, formulated bird food and a higher hygienic level during keeping results very often in a lasting establishment of a normal intestinal

microflora as well as a distinct reduction, even a complete disappearance, of the potentially pathogenic bacteria in the gut.

Recommendations are:

- Adult Lifetime Coarse or Fine or Super Fine on birds not older than 6 months, not breeding or molting, or
- High Potency Coarse or Fine or Super Fine on birds younger than 6 months or in breeding or molting birds resp. on species who need a higher level of protein, fat, vitamins and minerals, e.g., African grey parrots, hyacinth macaws, palm cockatoos
- In conjunction with a reduction of fruit and vegetables (recommended amounts see paragraph 1.)

Elevated Liver Parameters, Triglycerides and Cholesterol

The results of necropsies or clinical examinations point to chronic liver diseases in the majority of the parrots and parakeets. A diet change from the conventional seed mixtures to the Harrison's premium, certified organic, formulated bird foods leads regularly to an improvement of the hepatopathies and a reduction of the increased levels of triglycerides and cholesterol. The therapeutic success can be perfectly documented through regular biochemical serum profiles.

Tube Feeding Sick Birds or Patients with Body Weight Loss

During acute illness, the intensive metabolism of your bird patients, due to reduced food intake, leads very quickly to a life-threatening loss of body weight. The administration of the easily digestible handfeeding formula Recovery Formula (Passerine Formula 1, 35% crude protein, 19% crude fat) with a silicon crop tube, the bird will receive regularly a sufficient amount of liquid, nutrients, vitamins, minerals and trace minerals. Necessary medicine can easily be mixed under the food-mash. After a distinct improvement of the patient a slow changeover to the handfeeding formula Juvenile Handfeeding Formula (18 % crude protein, 11% crude fat) is recommended. After that, preferably High Potency Coarse or Fine should be given, which has almost

the same ingredients as the Juvenile Hand-feeding Formula. This food is a perfect basis for the convalescence of your patient. Addition of the digestive aid, HBD's Avian Enzyme, to the hand-feeding formulas is helpful at any patients with body weight loss.

Hand-raising Parrot and Parakeet Chicks

The hand raising food, Neonate formula (Passerine formula 2), is very easily digestible and through its balanced composition, based on its premium quality, certified organic raw materials, ideally suitable for the hand raising of parrot and parakeet chicks from their 1st day to the 21st day of life. The 26% crude protein and 12% crude fat levels, together with its easy digestibility and balanced composition, lead to gains of weight similar to parent raised chicks. After the 22nd day, one recommends a slow change to the Juvenile Hand-feeding Formula. High Potency Coarse or Fine or Super Fine should preferably be used for the weaning of the chicks. The digestive aid, HBD's Avian Enzyme, can be added to the hand-raising formulas if any signs of slow growing or slow food passage occur.

Passing of Undigested Seeds

A few diseases of the digestive tract (e.g., proventricular dilatation disease - PDD, chronic infections with bacteria and fungi) can lead to the excretion of undigested seeds in the feces as well as to emaciation of the birds even after good food intake. In such cases, the feeding of High Potency Fine or Super Fine is highly recommended as reinforcement of the medication therapy. The extruded food particles (approx. 3 mm in size) consist of finely ground components. They dissolve within the crop and proventriculus into an easy digestible mush. Additional offerings of digestive enzymes can support the absorption of the nutrients. High Potency Fine or Super Fine is also suitable for the prophylactic feeding of clinical inconspicuous birds in flocks with proventricular dilatation disease and can prevent the deadly dilatation with undigested seeds in the proventriculus. Addition of the digestive aid, HBD's Avian Enzyme, is highly recommended to help the food passage in the proventriculus, ventriculus and the intestines and the digestion.

Unbalanced Nutrition of Parrots and Parakeets

Many birds select a maximum of only 2-3 different grains out of the offered seed mixture and therefore feed themselves unbalanced. Many times the favorite grains or nuts have a very high fat content. Organic disturbances and an elevated susceptibility for infectious diseases could shorten the life expectancy drastically. Harrison's premium certified organic formulated bird food consists of up to 15 different types of grain, peas, beans, seeds and nuts. It contains no artificial colors, sweeteners or flavors, no preservatives or

antioxidants. The food is enriched with spirulina algae, vitamins, minerals and trace elements. With every piece of the Harrison food, the bird receives a well balanced diet. A selective feeding behavior is impossible.

Mycotic Diseases in Parrots and Parakeets

Chronic infections with fungi and yeasts as well as mycotoxicosis are frequent reasons for the death of parrots. Regular intake of seed mixtures and nuts contaminated with fungi, their spores and mycotoxins and permanent stored in inadequately ventilated rooms without direct sunshine are the principal causes for the development of a mycotic disease. With exclusive antimycotic treatment a lasting therapy success is rather unlikely. The complete change from the previous, mostly unbalanced and qualitatively inferior diet to the High Potency Coarse or Fine with a higher content of vitamin A is an essential therapeutic and prophylactic measure, since Harrison's Bird foods is certified free of fungi or mycotoxins.

HOW TO CONVERT BIRDS AND CLIENTS TO HARRISON'S BIRD FOOD

Food Conversion for Companion Pet Birds and Breeder Aviary Birds

Tame birds like to eat what the owners eat. Harrison's food is human grade food, and in the beginning of the conversion, it should be eaten by the clients in front of the birds to show it to them. This proved to be the fastest way of switching the birds to Harrison's food. After the birds started to eat the new food, the old food should be completely removed and not offered anymore. In pet birds that do not eat any table food or in breeder's aviary birds, the actual food must be reduced to 1 Tbs/bird in medium and large and 1 tsp/bird in small birds. It should be mixed with the new food in a 1:1 ratio in the feeding cups. Additionally to it the new food should be crushed or powdered and mixed with chopped fruits and vegetables the bird knows and likes to eat. The new food can be also soaked with fruit juices or mixed with yogurt if the bird likes these. After the bird starts to eat the new food or latest after 7 days, the amount of the previous food should be reduced to zero. More detailed information how to switch birds to this food are indicated in the brochure "The Organic Difference," which is available from Avifood for free in English or German language.

Not all owners have the discipline to change the food for their birds even after it was explained to them. They are often not able to change their own eating habits to a better and healthier food! The veterinary practices or clinics should offer food conversion service by boarding the birds for 10-20 days and switch their food during this period

from fatty low-quality seed mixtures to the Harrison premium organic balanced bird food. This service will increase the success rate in the nutritional conversion of the patients, increase the number of the birds consuming this organic balanced food significantly and is also an additional income source for the veterinarian.

Practical Recommendations for a Nutritional Consultation with Clients

The clients should bring a sample of the food or food supplements they feed to their birds (e.g., seed mixtures, pellets, vitamin and mineral powders, etc.) to the nutritional consultation to allow the veterinarian to analyze it. To explain the basic of the balanced nutrition and the dietary needs of pet birds in captivity, a minimum of 15 minutes consultation should be planned. The client should be informed about the disadvantages of the food he feeds to his birds and the influence of this food on the bird's health. This should be proved by the following results of the clinical evaluation, the biochemical serum analysis or other suitable tests. After the nutritional consultation, the client should know if he done any nutritional errors in the past and how it can be improved by using Harrison's premium organic balanced bird food with the goal of the maintenance of the bird's health on a high level for the whole bird life.

Starting with Use and Distribution of Harrison's Organic Formulated Food in Veterinary Clinics or Practices

Harrison's organic formulated food works in more than a thousand veterinary clinics and practices around the world. In the midsize and large pet birds, the clients should get two bags of food (each 450 g) - HPC (High Potency Coarse) and PT (Power Treats) after the initial nutritional veteri-

nary consultation. The clients switch the bird to PT first and after acceptance of PT to HPC. When the birds eat HPC they continue buying the 450 g bags or switch to the cheaper 2,27 kg or 11,34 kg or 22,27 kg bags. In the small parrots and parakeets, finches, canaries and mynahs, the clients should get one 450 g bag of HPF (High Potency Fine) or HPSF (High Potency Super Fine) after the nutritional consultation. The food change in these birds is more difficult (they are mostly seed imprinted), and it takes a longer time than in the large parrots. When the birds eat HPF or HPSF or later Adult Lifetime Fine or Super Fine (ALF or ALSF), the clients continue mostly purchasing the 450 g or 2,27 kg bags due to the small size of the birds.

The author's experience since 1990 shows about 50% of the clients who receive the initial nutritional consultation will continue using the HBD in their birds. So the numbers of clients purchasing Harrison's organic formulated food will slowly and continuously grow in each veterinary practice or clinic. Without a proper balanced nutrition of each patient there is no base and sense for any further veterinary work. So it is important that every parrot, parakeet, etc. that previously consumed seed mixtures or table food must leave the veterinary practice or clinic with one or two bags of food after their first visit there.

More information including the addresses of veterinarians using and distributing the Harrison's organic formulated food in Europe is indicated under www.avifood.com — in English and German languages. Avifood invites all veterinarians to join its distribution network for Harrison's organic formulated food. Professional consultation service and fast delivery are guaranteed. Veterinarians can order the wholesale pricelist for the Harrison's organic formulated food by fax ++49-89-854 814-50 or by email info@avifood.com.