

African Grey Parrot - Feather Plucking

History and presenting signs:

Giselle has been living with Katie for almost 4 years. Katie tells the story of Giselle who is a 12 year African Grey Parrot.



Neck brace and Buster collar placed, both commonly used on birds.

Last year we lost our German Shepherd Jess, and with African Greys being quite sensitive animals, Giselle picked up on our family's emotions. It was roughly at this time that we began to see small changes in her behaviour and the feather plucking began.

She began plucking her feathers on her rump and then moved on to destroying her red tail feathers. Over a period of a few days she started causing damage to the follicles which resulted in haemorrhaging. We started by just placing a collar to stop her but after a few weeks there was still no major improvements.

Parasitic, nutritional and boredom factors were all ruled out. To cover her for suspected bacterial folliculitis and infection through self-mutilation we placed her on antibiotics. We used the behaviour modifier also known as a common anti-depressant

Amitriptyline. We also had to use a neck brace with a buster collar to minimise her interference. (Giselle was very determined to get to her rump). Although all these had some effect, Giselle would get herself stressed as the area was still pruritic and inflamed.

VetGold Treatment Plan:

We made a care plan of daily wound cleaning and the application of VetGold cream to the area twice a day. We chose this over the spray version to start with as we could apply it thickly to the area. This also meant we could minimise the handling of Giselle and reduce the amount of applications.

We were very happy with the results which were clear within a couple of days. We could also see a massive improvement with Giselle's behaviour. She was feeling a lot happier and was showing reduced attempts to try and interfere with the area and her appetite was returning to normal.

After one week and the evidence of new tail feathers already growing through, we reduced the application of VetGold to once daily for another week and changed over to the spray version. This was a lot easier to apply to the skin and in-between the new tail feathers.



Day 1.

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Giselle is anaesthetised. Being anaesthetised enabled us to deep clean the wound and apply her neck brace and collar. Necrotic tissue had to be debrided. Starts VetGold cream treatment twice a day. Continues for a week.

Day 4.

Application of VetGold cream has been applied to area twice daily. Inflammation and redness reduced. Continued with antibiotics and anti-depressants. Giselle's behaviour showed she was less agitated with the wound.



Day 4.



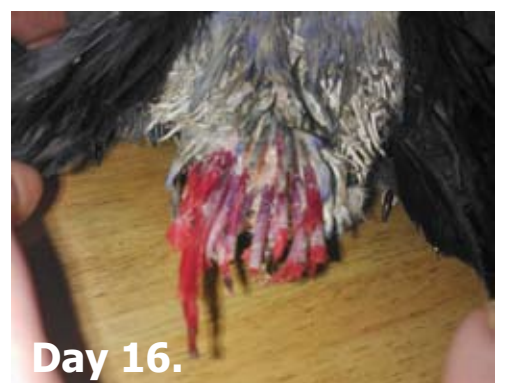
Day 9.

Day 9.

Change over to VetGold spray. Reduced applications to once a day. Antibiotics stopped but anti depressants continues for another week. No inflammation and redness reduced. Giselle has become less pruritic. Evidence of tail feathers growing.

Day 16.

VetGold spray stopped at day 14. Rapid growth rate of tail feathers. Anti-depressant and collar remained until feathers fully grown. Skin back to normal.



Day 16.