

Downers Grove Animal Hospital & Bird Clinic, P.C.

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Pet Bird Diseases

A sharp eye on your bird's condition and behavior can be lifesaving. You may be able to spot some illnesses and disorders before they become serious. Keep in mind though, that it can be tricky to tell when a bird is sick. A natural defense mechanism enables the bird to "perk up" when necessary to avoid predators. If you don't spend a lot of time with the bird, or are unable to observe small abnormalities, you might miss the early signs of disease.

- Is the bird behaving abnormally-sitting on the floor, constantly ruffling, or wobbling on the perch?
- Is it lethargic?
- Has it gone off feed (check the cage floor for scraps or seeds)?
- Are its talons or nails overgrown?
- Are its eyes dull-not bright and clear as normal?
- Are its feathers puffed and dull, or is it bare of feathers in certain spots?
- Are the wings out of proper position or asymmetrical?
- Is there discharge in the eye or nasal area?
- Is the beak overgrown or asymmetrical?
- Is there an accumulation of droppings on the bird's feathers or feet?
- Is the bird breathing heavily or with difficulty-any wheezing, coughing, or abnormal sneezing?
- Has the bird developed any growths or enlargements?

It is not unusual for recently purchased or relocated birds to go off feed for as long as 24 hours. But when longer than this there is danger of starvation and force-feeding may be necessary. Check with your veterinarian.

Check with your veterinarian if you notice any of the preceding warning signs.