



# **CAPRICORNIA BUDGERIGAR**

## **SOCIETY INC.**

The Secretary – CBS Inc.  
P.O. Box 10165  
Frenchville  
Queensland 4701

Webpage: [www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)

**December 2023**

Dear Member,

As the year draws to a close, the committee wishes all our members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I unfortunately was unable to attend the clubs Christmas Breakup held at the Raglan Tavern, but have been reliably informed that it was a hugh success with good company and great food.

The next event for our club is our General meeting in February followed by our Annual Show in March. Start looking for and preparing those awesome young birds that you have bred this past breeding season for this show. Cheryl and myself try to attend a few southern shows each year generally one around the Brisbane area, Frazer Coast Show and a Bundaberg Show. These are all great shows and their members always make you feel welcome. I urge our members to consider doing these shows, even though it involves a bit of travelling, the competitiveness and the socializing makes it worthwhile.

With these summer storms and the high humidity that we are currently experiencing, it would be prudent for all members to be on the watch for any signs of Coccidiosis and Psittacosis. One of the triggers for these two diseases is high humidity, which can also trigger secondary problems. I also hope everyone is also taking precautions against the high temperatures we are experiencing and no one has lost birds to the heat.

Don't forget membership renewal is now due, fees to Shayla, please. Have a great festive season, drive safe if you are travelling and we will all catch up again in the New Year.

Russell Ogden  
(Newsletter Editor, CBS Inc.) [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com)

## MEMBERS INFORMATION PAGE

- **Committee Members:** Confirmed at AGM

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President:	Russell Ogden	0437 025 793
Vice-President:	Kev O'Callaghan	0411 956 345
Treasurer:	Michael Evans	0409 160 569
Secretary:	Shayla Evans	0408 731 846

- EMAIL Addresses: To allow for more efficient distribution of club information, please forward a test email or your email address to [cbudgerigars@gmail.com](mailto:cbudgerigars@gmail.com) and for newsletters to [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com) **Thanks to all those who have forwarded these details previously.**

- **SHOW & WIN!!!!!!!** Starting at our 2023 Breeders Show, you will become eligible to win a \$200 Credit at our Annual Auction by showing at the 3 Major Shows (Breeders 2023, Annual 2024, Young Bird Show 2024). You will receive one ticket for showing 1 to 10 birds, 2 tickets for 11 to 20 entries, etc. After the Young Bird Selection Show in 2024, the winner will be drawn. The more you show, the better chance you have to win. It is only open to CBS Inc members. You must show at all 3 shows unless you are judging the show or are genuinely ill or have a family emergency. The aim of this incentive is to encourage members to show consistently at all 3 shows.
- Services Section: The Club Shirt is now being worn by many members. If you want to purchase one, contact Shayla Evans 0408 731 846 **(Please do not call after 7:00 pm)** Shayla will also have a supply of 2023 rings, (60 cents each and sold in lots of 25, postage is extra \$5.00) and show cages and cage fronts if anyone needs some.
- Future CBS Variety of the Year are as follows: 2024: - Clearbody. 2025: - Greywing. 2026: - Crested. These are judged at the Annual Show each year.

# BUDGIE FEATHER PROBLEMS

You will be able to spot feather-related ailments far more easily than bacterial or fungal ones. Any permanent untidiness in the budgie's coat, or feather-loss that results in bald patches, is a very visible sign of trouble.

## Budgie Feather Cyst

Cysts occur when a feather fails to break through the skin. It will continue to grow beneath the surface, producing a lump on the budgie's skin. The primary wing feathers are the most commonly affected ones. Cysts won't disappear without surgical intervention.

## Budgie Feathers Falling Out

Feather loss could be due to one of five things: moulting, parasites, self-plucking, French moult virus, or Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease. These are all dealt with elsewhere in this guide.



Feather problems

# BUDGIE FEATHER PLUCKING

If a budgie starts plucking his own feathers, there's an underlying health problem. Unfortunately, it's not obvious which of the many possible ailments is to blame. It could be parasites, an allergy, low air humidity, lack of fresh air, stress, boredom, mating hormones, liver disease, cancer, bacterial or fungal infection, malnutrition, heavy metal poisoning, or simply a bad habit.

A trip to the vet's is necessary to see if the underlying problem can be diagnosed, and if it turns out to be an environmental problem rather than disease, there are a few things you can do to get to the bottom of the plucking mystery:

- Watch your budgie closely, and see if you can spot a pattern or trigger. Is he plucking when angry, bored or stressed? Is another bird or object involved in the incident that leads up to a bout of plucking? Does it happen after he's eaten? Is he fine when you're around – i.e. does he only pluck when he's lonely?
- Assess the light, air and humidity situation. Is the budgie getting a 50/50 balance of light and dark through the 24 hour day? Can you do something about his centrally-heated, moisture-free environment to dampen things down a bit? Does moving the cage to a different location help?
- Swap the budgie's toys around, if you don't do so already. Make another stick perch to give him something novel to perch and nibble on.
- Is the bird in need of a bath? A simple case of itchy, dry, grubby skin could be the issue. Like a reluctant male teenager, if he's not in the habit of bathing, he may not realise that he needs one. A wide-nozzled spray (not a fine mist one) will get him wet and washing. The shower should induce the budgie's natural preening instincts, rather than his plucking ones. Don't overdo it, though, if the dousing is making the budgie panic.
- Check your food offerings against the list of good foods given in this guide. Try some new ones, to see if you can plug a difficult-to-pinpoint nutritional gap.
- Do you often stroke the budgie on the back or belly? This can stimulate mating hormones in the birds, which sometimes inspire feather-plucking.

Sadly, diagnosis is not the same as cure. Many budgies keep on plucking when the original stimulation has been identified and removed.

If all angles have been covered and the budgie still plucks himself, you'll have to resign yourself to a semi-bald bird. Some contrary individuals simply get into the habit, and nothing you can do will persuade them to desist.

## Budgies Plucking Each Other

This is a variation on the plucking problem. A budgie who is plucked by his cage mates will become very stressed, and can even die as a result. Isolating the perpetrator is the best short-term solution; but you will also have to assess the problem and see if you can resolve it in the long term. The guilty bird may have been frustrated – these issues are often sex-related. Providing a nest-box or a choice of potential mates may divert the bird's frustrations away from plucking. Making sure there is more than one feeding station might help, too.

## Budgie Feather Bleeding

When a budgie is growing new feathers during the moulting season, or when young birds are producing their adult plumage, feather bleeding can occur. A new 'pin' feather contains blood vessels, without which the full feather would not be able to grow. If these are damaged during the early days, they will bleed like any other wound.

A patch of blood on an adult bird's coat is most likely to be one of these pin feathers. In extreme situations, the damage can result in the loss of so much blood that the budgie can actually die. The larger pin feathers – those associated with primary wing and tail feathers – bleed the most if damaged.

Once spotted, the bleeding must be addressed at once. The budgie must be caught, and the broken end of the feather must be held tightly for ten minutes. (Note: the pressure should be exerted on the feather itself, not the bird's body – squeezing the budgie can cause suffocation.) Once the bleeding has stopped, arrange a trip to the vet to have the broken pin feather removed.

Pin feathers above the cere and nostrils can easily break, but the bleeding involved here is minimal and soon stops. Budgies often damage these pins in a violent 'kissing' bout. A lone budgie will often bash himself against his 'friend' in the cage mirror and damage the new feathers. Once the blood has dried, it will leave a small stain above the cere which may remain until the next moult.



Dried blood from broken pin feathers has left small stains on this budgie's feathers

## Budgie Feather Duster

Feather Duster Syndrome is a genetic condition, often a sign of inbreeding. The unfortunate afflicted birds – sometimes called Mops – have feathers that grow in random directions, and keep on growing. This gives them a 'feather duster' or mop-like appearance. Sometimes the beak and toenails grow abnormally long too. The budgies cannot fly or walk, and there are no plus sides to this genetic defect – the unhappy bird is unable to fend for itself, and has a weak immune system, with so much of the body's energy going towards endless feather growth. Such a bird will need a fortified diet. Even so, most of them do not make it beyond one year, and euthanasia is the humane option.

## Budgie feathers French Molt

French molt is a virus that affects some juvenile birds, a mild form of the fatal Budgerigar Fledgling Disease. It causes secondary wing feathers and tail feathers to fall out, rendering the budgie incapable of flight. In severe cases feathers fall out across much of the bird's body. There is no surefire cure, but a trip to the vet for formal diagnosis and advice is recommended.

## Budgie Beak and Feather Disease

Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD), or Psittacine Circovirus Disease (PCD), is a virus that causes feathers to fall out and beaks and toenails to

become misshapen. There is no single pattern to the symptoms, which can range from a bedraggled-looking bird to a completely naked one. Skin sores and blemishes may appear too. The virus is passed on through droppings, and there is no cure. This makes it vital that you isolate the affected birds, and get a proper diagnosis from a vet.

An elderly couple were celebrating their Golden Anniversary, and the local paper were there to report on this momentous occasion.

The reporter was interviewing the husband and said "I believe you and your wife have never had a cross word with one another in your entire married life". That's correct". replied the husband.

"Can you tell me how this is possible". Asks the reporter.

"Well replies the old man. When we were on our honeymoon, we were out horse riding and my wife's horse threw her off. She picked her self up and says to the horse "That's once". A bit further along the horse throws her again, and again she picks herself up and says to the horse "That's twice". The rest of the ride was uneventful until we were almost home and the horse throws her again. She calmly picks herself up and takes out her rifle and shoots the horse".

"Gee that's a bit extreme". I say to her. She replies "**That's once**".

**This article kindly supplied by Laurie Key.**

## **Preventative Medicine in Exhibition Budgerigars**

**Kevin Eatwell**

**BVSc (hons) DZooMed MRCVS**

**RCVS Diplomat in Zoological Medicine.**

### **Preventative Medicine**

Preventative medicine is of vital importance to the Budgerigar fancy. Recently outbreaks of viral disease have led to increased disease precautions being undertaken at exhibitions.

When controlling disease it is important to understand how infectious agents may be spread. This can be by direct contact between birds, feather dust, air droplets or via contaminated surfaces (such as show cages). Mixing of birds is probably the most significant factor for disease transmission.

Mixing of birds occurs all the time when new birds are bought, birds on loan, birds travelling to and from exhibitions and at the shows themselves. If the birds were mixing with disease free individuals that would be fine but we cannot and must not trust anyone to have disease free stock. Thus any birds that have been recently mixed (for whatever reason) should be considered as potentially infected. It may not be that the supplier is knowingly lying, but they themselves are unable to guarantee the disease status of their own birds.

### **Disease Control**

Disease control of the fancy as a whole is not possible and so disease prevention should be your concern on your doorstep. This is the only way to know your birds are protected. Economics does play a role and this may limit extensive testing for disease. However one thing that can be done is quarantine. All birds may be carrying diseases and you may not know what diseases your birds have. There is little point trying to exclude a disease you already have, but you certainly want to keep novel infections out! So what should our quarantine facility be like?

### **What Should Quarantine Facility Be Like?**

Firstly an all in all out policy should be rigidly kept to. Quarantine should be for at least 42 days. Individual housing will enable food and water intake and dropping consistency to be critically appraised. The cage should be easy to disinfect between birds. A metal cage with a newspaper substrate is the easiest to maintain. Any sick birds should be either euthanased and a post mortem examination or a clinical diagnosis with appropriate treatment. It is important to delay the entry of all birds in the group until you are satisfied of their disease status.

Birds should be quarantined after every mixing event. This includes upon their return from a show, prior to a show (to reduce the risk to other birds at the exhibition).

Ensuring the exhibitors' birds have a certain level of disease free status and enforcement of a quarantine period before and after an exhibition would control infections far more effectively than any current measures in place. Sadly this means we would have to rely on individual fanciers and trust their judgement. Would you trust all the exhibitors at your local show? Quarantine of birds in this situation has another limitation as it would reduce the number of shows you could attend.

Admittedly many of the diseases we are worried about could be limited by a 14 day period (influenza, reovirus) but still this would limit the number of exhibitions a fancier

could attend. Disinfection should be with a DEFRA approved disinfectant on clean surfaces, at the required dilution for the required contact time. This is certainly a major stumbling block for the exhibitions as many shows were using inappropriate disinfectants for too short a time period. Also there is resistance from some foolish, more senior members and judges based on my experiences over the last few years. The only disinfectant that I would recommend is F10SC® as this is effective but also safer than many others, bearing in mind both our birds and we ourselves are exposed to the disinfectant.

### **Diseases of clinical significance**

#### ***Macrorhabus ornithogaster***

The lay mans term for this is Megabacteria, it causes a chronic wasting disease and is caused by a type of yeast. This is endemic within our fancy now. Clinically it presents as going light and regurgitation. Passing whole seeds can be a feature. Occasionally a bird will regurgitate blood and die due to stomach damage. The only effective treatment is amphotericin B. This is available as a water-soluble formulation or as a lozenge. The difficulty with Budgerigars is getting them to drink sufficient to control the infection. Reportedly conversion to a more digestible diet will lead to fewer clinical cases.

#### ***Chlamydophila***

This can pass onto humans. It can cause conjunctivitis, sinusitis, green droppings, fluffed up birds and sudden deaths. This is endemic within the fancy but only occasionally leads to significant outbreaks, usually associated with high stress levels on the birds or due to poor husbandry. Testing can be problematic and the best test is to test the bird faeces collected over three days. It is important not to treat with any antibiotics prior to collecting them. It is impossible to certify a stud free of infection under any circumstances. The treatment of choice here is doxycycline.

#### ***Conjunctivitis and sinusitis***

These are becoming increasingly common and can be due to a variety of agents including *Chlamydophila*. Once introduced into a stud it can be difficult to eradicate and I would not wish to acquire any birds from a stud with signs of this condition. Treatment includes many different broad spectrum antibiotics with activity against the *Chlamydophila* or *Mycoplasma*. Taking culture samples will help to identify the most appropriate drug to use.

#### ***'French Moul'***

This is caused by one or both of two viruses. This has been proved many times. If a fancier tells you otherwise they are talking rubbish. These two infections are Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease (PBFD) and Polyoma Virus. These cannot be treated and are spread by feather dust. Control is by reducing the environmental viral load by using F10SC® and reducing bird density. In severe cases stopping breeding and resting the birds is required to limit the outbreak severity.

**The above article is provided by Kevin Eatwell and based on his presentation at the Budgerigar Society Convention at Southport in June 2006.**

## **Australian Wildlife Supplies**

Hi, we would just like to let you know that **Australian Wildlife Supplies** are now going to do a **Seed Run up North every 3 months** starting our first run on the **2nd, of September** to order people can email, send sms ph or order online, if you could please let all the members know would be appreciated.

Seed Prices are as follows

### **MIXES**

Finch Mix	\$40
Budgie Mix	\$42
Canary Mix	\$42
Sm Parrot	\$40

### **PLAIN SEEDS**

Red Panic	\$40
Yellow Panic	\$43
W/French Millet	\$38
Panorama Millet	\$38
Jap Millet	\$38
Canary Seed	\$46
G/Stripe Sunflower	\$44
Rape Seed	\$29
Hulled Oats	\$32

**Orders over 10bags are discounted by 10%**

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Kindest Regards  
Ray & Tereena Wust  
Australian Wildlife Supplies  
Ph. 0417749501

CBS Inc.---Calendar of Events---2024

Note that some Friday Night meetings have been changed to follow a Show or Club event.

Sun 14 Jan <i>confirmed</i>	ABS Inc Auction	Brisbane		
Tues Jan 16	<b>Committee Meeting</b> Discuss Annual Show, Auction, Judge for YB Show & Breeders Show Zone Matters> carers etc	Evans residence	6.15 pm	
Feb 02	General Meeting  Judges Meeting to follow.	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF  <u>FEATURE</u> : Recessives and Splits. Russell Ogden
March 01	General Meeting	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF  <u>FEATURE</u> : Questions and Answers from the floor.
Monday March 11	ENTRIES for SHOW due tonight 8pm	Phone / Email Show Secretary		
Saturday March 23	<b>56th ANNUAL SHOW</b> Judge: TBC Selling class included.	<b>NRHS PAC??</b>	<b>Bench by 8:30am</b>	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences <b>8:45am</b>
<b>Tues March 19</b>	<b>Committee Meeting</b>  Discuss ZONE & ANBC Agendas. Auction details	Venue: <b>????</b>	6:15pm	
<b>Easter: G o o d F r i d a y March 29 – Monday April 01</b>				
<b>April 06???</b>	Wynnum Auction <b>to be confirmed</b>			
<b>April 05</b>	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F <u>FEATURE</u> : TBA
<b>April 08 CBS Inc. ANNUAL AUCTION ENTRIES DUE TODAY!!!!!!!</b>				

May General Meeting	May General Meeting to follow Young Bird Selection Show			
Sat May 04th	<b>CBS INC YOUNG BIRD SELECTION SHOW.</b>  May General Meeting to follow this SHOW  Draw of CLUB REWARDS for credit of \$200 at CBS Auction	<b>Mount Larcom Bird Pavilion</b>  <b>Mount Larcom</b>  Day of Show entries close at 8:30 am. CBS Members Only	Benching by 9:00am	Y/B Rung 23 & NF Rung 24  Judging commences by 9:15am  CBS Members Raffle drawn.
Saturday 18 May	N & C Q Zone: 1. Judges Panel & 2. Delegates Meeting.	Venue: Townsville Showgrounds		3:00 pm Judges Meeting TBC 3:30 pm Zone Delegates Meeting TBC
Sunday 19 May	<b>N &amp; C Q ZONE CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.</b>	Venue: Townsville Showgrounds		Benching by 8am Judging starts after benching
Friday May 24 Saturday 25 Sunday 26 Monday 27	ANBC C'SHIP SHOW	TASMANIA	See ANBC Website for information and details, eg, Venue, times, etc.	
<b>Monday May 27</b>	ANBC Delegates Meeting	Hobart, TASSIE		
<b>NO JUNE MEETING</b>				
Sat June 08	Pre-Auction Dinner	<b>Venue: TBC</b>	6.30 for 7.00pm	Performing Arts Hall opened from 2-4pm for setup & birds to be
Sunday June 09	ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION	Nth R'ton High School Hall.	Bench by 7.45am	View 8.00am Starts at 9:00am
Sat June 22	SQBBA Auction, Brisbane Venue Strathpine Community Hall			
July 01	General Meeting	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & NF  <u>FEATURE</u> : TBA
Tues July23	<b>Committee Meeting</b>  Discuss AGM, Club Trip, Judge for and October Breeders Show.	Venue: ????	6:15pm	

August 03 AGM & Monthly meeting)	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  General & Judges Meetings to follow	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	No <u>Table Show</u> or <u>FEATURE</u>
<b>August 10</b> Newcastle Auction. Venue: Wallsend Community Hall				
<b>August 24 &amp; 25???????</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> Visit to ??? Aviary TB Confirmed</b>  25 <sup>th</sup> Attend Moreton Club (formerly Pine Rivers) Annual Auction	CLUB ANNUAL EVENT	Depart early Saturday morning	
Sept 06	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : TBA
Oct 04	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> :TBA
September/October	<b>Committee Meeting</b>  Discuss Calendar of events, Venue booking. End of year event, Judge for Annual Show, donation for Meeting Room. Vendors for Auction 25	Venue: ????	6:15pm	
Monday Oct 03	ENTRIES for Breeders Show due tonight 8:00pm		Phone Show Secretary	
Sat Oct 12	<b>56<sup>th</sup> BREEDERS SHOW</b>  Judge: TBC  Selling class.	North R'ton High Performing Arts Centre (PAC) Simpson Street.	Benching <b>by 9:00am</b>	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences by <b>9:30am</b>
Nov 01 OC can't make 01 but prefers 08	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> :TBA.

<p>Sunday Nov 24</p>	<p>CHRISTMAS LAWN SHOW AND CLUB BREAKUP, including final meeting of the year. (December General Meeting).</p>	<p>TBA –</p>	<p>1.00pm 2.00pm By 2.00pm 3.00pm</p>	<p>BBQ. Meetin g. Benchi ng. Judgin g.</p>
<p>Dec 06</p>	<p>General Meeting  IF NO LAWN SHOW AS PER NOV 27 ABOVE</p>	<p>NRHS</p>	<p>7.15pm</p>	<p><u>Table Show</u> A/A &amp; Y/B &amp; N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> :TBA.</p>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL  
2024

Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.



Forward to: Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.

Secretary: P.O. Box 10165 Frenchville 4701

Or email to [cbudgerigars@gmail.com](mailto:cbudgerigars@gmail.com)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (all if  
partnership)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*This is vital to  
allow prompt delivery of information to all members.

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile:  
\_\_\_\_\_

***I agree to keep my birds in a suitable environment and use appropriate husbandry practices.***

My current exhibition status is .....  
(Open, Intermediate, Beginner.)

Applicant's Signature.....

Proposer's Name.....Proposer's  
Signature.....

Date.....

Please make cheques payable to: " Capricornia Budgerigar Society  
Inc."

**Membership Rates for 2022:**

Senior: \$40.00

Partnership: \$40.00

Family: \$40.00

Memberships due by January 01 each year. Membership after June 30 will be \$20  
for remainder of current year.

CBS Inc WEBPAGE: **[www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)**