

Surgical Management of an Intrathoracic Branchial Cyst in a Lesser Crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*)

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Abstract: A 40-year-old female lesser crested cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea*) was presented with a complaint of hyporexia and sudden onset of sneezing and wheezing. Physical examination revealed mild stertorous inhalation, and the apex of the heart was palpable caudoventral to the distal tip of the sternum. Projection radiographic images showed a soft tissue mass displacing the heart and the thoracic portion of the trachea. A subsequent computed tomography series revealed a single, large, and predominantly encapsulated soft-tissue mass. The mass was contained within the cranial thoracic region and occupied the majority of the anatomic location of the thoracic portion of the clavicular air sac, extending around a portion of the trachea. A surgical exploratory procedure was performed, using a thoracic inlet thoracotomy approach, and the mass was found to be cystic and deeply infiltrated into surrounding tissues at its caudal-most aspect. Complete excision was not possible, and the mass was drained and an incomplete resection was accomplished with approximately one-half of the cystic structure removed and submitted for histopathology. The mass was found to be benign, epithelial-lined, dense fibrous connective tissue that would be consistent with a branchial cyst.