Avian emergencies and case review – Olivia A. Petritz, DMV, DACZM

Dr. Olivia Petritz presented us the most common avian emergencies: blood feather, dyspnea, seizures, fluffed bird and cloacal prolapse.

### Blood feather
- Acceptable blood loss: 1mL per 100g
- Control hemorrhage (pression, bandage, styptic powder) → REMOVE BLOOD FEATHER → analgesia

### Dyspnea
- Oxygen supplementation
- Observe in carrier (behavior, respiratory rate and character, body position) → determine stability of patient
- Physical examination (less than 30 seconds with THE BIRD IN AN UPRIGHT POSITION): auscultation (heart, lungs and air sacs), body condition, brief coelomic palpation
- Obstructive dyspnea: breathing through a straw, increased respiratory effort, dyspnea, loud inspiratory stridor, normal to increased respiratory rate, wheezing, → consider air sac tube placement
- Restrictive dyspnea: tachypnic, +/− dyspnea, chronic condition, +/− coelomic mass/distention → consider Keppra or zonisamide for long-term therapy

### Seizures
- The most common presentation
- Diagnostic procedures: blood test, fecal gram stain
- Supportive care: fluid therapy SQ (IV or IO for debilitated or dehydrated patients), gavage feeding (IF UNABLE TO STAND DO NOT GAVAGE FEED)

### Cloacal prolapse
- Common causes: egg laying/reproductive tract disease, idiopathic/behavioral, constipation, spinal trauma
- Determine the tissue and the viability → if viable → sedation/anesthesia + analgesia → clean tissue → lubricate → manually replace → 2 full thickness lateral vent sutures (NO PURSE STRING IN BIRDS) → determine underlying cause

### Fluffed bird
- Common causes: egg laying/reproductive tract disease, idiopathic/behavioral, constipation, spinal trauma
- The most common presentation
- Diagnostic procedures: blood test, fecal gram stain
- Supportive care: fluid therapy SQ (IV or IO for debilitated or dehydrated patients), gavage feeding (IF UNABLE TO STAND DO NOT GAVAGE FEED)