

Hi, my 9-year-old Cockatiel, Pepe, has gone blind in his right eye.

We live in Brazil, and all the Ophthalmologists I contacted only have experience treating dogs and cats, not being able to help us.

It all started on August 25, after taking my Cockatiels out for sunbathing, I took them back inside and holded him to inspect his crest. (In the previous weeks, I noticed a bunch of his crest feathers was seemingly ripped out. I don't know how he lost them or if they were plucked.)

Right after holding him tight to check his crest, I observed his right eye was irritated, with reddish and swollen eyelids. I think the pressure I put could have injured his eye.

I didn't think it was serious and it seemed to be getting better. He was keeping his eye shut for a while, but in September, it looked much better, I thought it was back to normal.

Until November, it gradually got much worse, with swollen eyelids and closed most of the time. On November 19 I took him to an Ophthalmologist Vet which is 3 hours by car from here. She said there was no uveitis and the eye pressure of the good eye was 13, while in the right eye it was 16.

She prescribed Pred Fort (prednisolone acetate 10 mg/ml), once a day. After a week, there was no improvement. And he had lost weight with the prednisolone, going from 94g to 79g.

He loses weight with prednisolone, even when administered in the eye I realized. (For 3 years, he had breathing problems and I had to give him 0,03ml of prednisolone almost daily. His airways were always clear, without secretion, but there was this clicking sound, his tail was moving with his breathing. Only a little more than one year ago, that I managed to stop the medication. His voice used to be a little hoarse, now it's clearer and louder, even without the medicine. His respiratory capacity is not 100% though.)

I sent a message to the Ophthalmologist, and she told me to start with Dorzolamide 2%. After I administered it for the third time, I notice he wasn't feeling well. He was more sleepy and quiet than normal. Then I decided to stop it too. And Dorzolamide feels like burning the eye, I tried on myself. It was really difficult to apply it on his eye.

After a few days, the eye pressure in the good eye was 14 and in the right one was 21.

At that point I noticed he had lost sight in the right eye. Maybe he could still see shadows.

On December 18, when filming with the flash on, his right eye was not as transparent as it should be, it didn't reflect the light as the normal one. And the central area was a little white.

The white spot in his eye became more evident as the days went by. There was NEVER any secretion, only the swollen eyelids, and the increasing glaucoma.

He keeps his right eye shut all the time, but he has been playing and eating normally.

I tested his droppings for Mycoplasma and Chlamydia and the results were negative.

I sent another sample of his droppings, and it was positive for Megabacteria, and the fungal culture was positive for Aspergillus niger. After giving all my birds 0,3ml of Nistatine for 10 days, the results came back negative.

I also sent his droppings for microbiological culture and it was positive for Streptococcus sp and Hafnia alvei. I gave him norfloxacin twice a day for a week and I've been collecting his dropping to send to the laboratory.

The Ophthalmologist also prescribed Tobrex (Tobramycin). I think it helps a little, but not the glaucoma.

I'm mostly concerned with the glaucoma, I don't know how to stop it. And having to put him through surgery to remove the eye. His respiratory condition is not good, so the anesthesia will be really risky. Also they don't have much practice with Cockatiels around here.

I have a video from before the cataract, his pupil seem to be much bigger when comparing with my other birds. I don't know if that was normal.

If you can help us, I would like to pay for a long distance consultation.

Any information you provide, I'll be very grateful.

Kind regards,

Livia Yagi