

Eastern District Budgerigar Club Newsletter



November 2021

Hello Members

Great news! We can hold our November meeting. What a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and talk budgies!

New Members

The club welcomes Saxon Huang and Timmothy Boulton. We hope you enjoy your new hobby.

Club Meeting – 25 November from 7pm (note earlier start time)

This night will be our final catch up for the year as we will not be running our normal Christmas dinner. The theme for the night is "Welcome to our new members" so we hope that everyone who has joined the Club during the Covid years is able to come.

There will be prizes

For Best beginner, Best Intermediate, Best New Club Member (2019,2020, 2021) and best bird.
Two categories: Young birds (2020 and 2021) and Unbroken Caps.

There will be a bird sales table

Bring along your spare birds that will help get our beginners started.

There will be a raffle

Please let Mitch know if you have any donations for the raffle.

There will be a light meal provided

Please contact Mitch Parr if you plan to come so he can plan the catering. Let him know any dietary restrictions at the same time.

David Charlton Auction: 5 December, 2021

Dave has about 80 quality birds to move on and has offered the club the opportunity to run an auction as a fundraising activity. A percentage of sales will come to us.

Help required from club members on the day includes general set up from 7:30 am, pack up and cleaning the hall until about 13:00, returning to Forest Hill to unload the trailer, benching birds, record keeping, camera monitoring etc. Please offer your services at the start of the day. Please contact Mitch if you plan to help set up from 7:30 so he knows he has enough help.

Peter Thurn will be auctioneer.

Venue: Ringwood Community Centre, Bedford Park, Rosewarne Ln, Ringwood VIC 3134.

9-10:00am: Bird Viewing.

10:00: Auction Starts.

Tea and coffee provided. No catering.

Reminder: Be covid safe – change of process

In line with State Government requirements, the Club requires all members, friends and visitors attending events to be fully vaccinated. You are required to use the QR Code at the hall, sign our attendance sheet and show the nominated Covid Marshall/s your vaccination certificate or formal exemption document if appropriate. At this stage masks must be worn, but this may change.

We apologise if this will cause you inconvenience but these are the conditions of the hall hire.

Tips for Beginners

Egg Binding in birds.

Taken from <https://www.aviculturehub.com.au/how-to-prevent-egg-binding/> and <https://www.thesprucepets.com/signs-of-egg-binding-in-birds-390494>

Egg-binding is a serious and often fatal condition that affects female birds of breeding age. If left untreated, death can occur within hours, especially for the small birds such as budgerigars. Egg-binding is when an egg takes longer than usual to pass out of the reproductive tract.

Symptoms

Rapid or labored breathing Swelling Constipation Drooping of the wings Lameness
Fluffed-up feathers Straining Sitting on the cage floor Loss of appetite

Egg Binding Causes

- Over-breeding, or encouraging birds to breed outside of their typical breeding season.
- Age: Young birds and old birds are more likely to suffer egg binding.
- Poor diet: Inadequate supply of calcium, vitamin A and protein usually caused by a seed-only diet.
- Poor housing; insufficient room to fly, exposure to temperature extremes, high stress.
- Deformed eggs; usually caused by one of the above factors.
- Cold weather

Egg Binding Prevention

Addressing the above factors are the best way to avoid egg binding. With good housing, sufficient warmth in winter (if necessitated by your local climate), and a varied and nutritious diet, egg binding can be largely avoided.

There are several preventative measures undertaken by breeders to reduce the impact of egg-binding on their flock. Usually, these measures are deployed during the colder non-breeding months when egg binding is most likely to occur:

- Add a small amount of cod liver oil and wheat germ oil mixed in with dry seed.
- Provide lots of calcium, either as shell grit, cuttlefish bone or a commercial supplement.
- Keep the aviary as warm as possible with insulation.

Treatment

It is possible for a bound egg to be massaged out but this should only be done by a vet or an experienced bird owner. Another option is a warm water bath or even a steam room. This can help relax the muscles, which may help the hen pass the egg on its own. If the massage and natural methods don't extract the egg, it may be necessary for an experienced vet to break the egg while it is still in the hen and remove it in parts. Another option is for a vet to use an injectable drug, which may help cause the oviduct to contract and expel the egg.

Committee Executive

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