

# Avian Behavior Questionnaire:

## *Feather Destruction & Self-Mutilation*

### General Information

- Name:
- Species:
- Age:
- Sex:
- Domestic or wild-caught?:
- Length of ownership:

### Diet

- Describe your bird's diet. Please be specific and include approximate percentages of formulated diet, seeds, vegetables, fruit, etc.
- Does your bird eat peanuts, cheese or other dairy products, sunflower seeds, or food items with artificial coloring (i.e. formulated diets)
- Is your parrot a picky eater?

### Housing

- What is the size of your bird's cage?
- Where is the cage located?
- Is the cage located near a window, hallway, wall, or door?
- Is your bird caged with any other birds?
- If yes, does your bird pick other birds?
- How much time does your pet spend outside of its cage?
- Length of ownership
- How many hours of sleep does your bird get? Is the cage covered?
- Does your bird like to bathe or shower?
- How often does your bird bathe or shower?
- Is anything added to the water?
- Does your bird play with toys? How many toys does your bird have? Please describe the toys.
- Does your bird have a playgym? Where is it located?
- Does your bird spend anytime outdoors?
- Are there any other pets in the house?
- Is your bird exposed to any inhalant irritants such as cigarette smoke or incense?
- How would you describe your home environment? How many people live in the home? What are the ages of family members?

### Feather Damaging Behavior

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where does your parrot feather pick its feathers?</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back</li> <li>• Chest</li> <li>• Legs</li> <li>• Sides</li> <li>• Tail</li> <li>• Wings</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your bird...?</li> </ul>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pull out its feathers</li> <li>• Bite its feathers off</li> <li>• Shred feathers</li> <li>• Make other sounds of pain while picking</li> <li>• Destroy new blood feathers</li> </ul> |

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the extent or severity of the feather damaging behavior?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe: everywhere the bird can reach</li> <li>• Bad: large, bare areas</li> <li>• Moderate: down feathers remain, contour feathers missing</li> <li>• Light: overall ratty appearance</li> <li>• Minimal: undetectable without close examination</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When does your bird pick the most?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When you are home</li> <li>• When you are home and watching it</li> <li>• When you are gone</li> <li>• At night?</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your bird do any tissue damage? Where? Does the picking cause bleeding?</li> <li>• Does your bird interrupt other activities to feather pick?</li> <li>• At what age did your bird begin to feather pick?</li> <li>• Were there any traumatic events or stressors that could have led to feather picking?</li> <li>• Is there a certain time of year that your bird feather picks?</li> <li>• Do you have more than one bird that feather picks? If yes, can they see each other?</li> <li>• Have you visited a veterinarian because of your parrot's feather picking before today?</li> <li>• Have you consulted a parrot behaviorist?</li> <li>• What have you tried to stop the feather picking? Did anything help?</li> </ul>	

<p><b>“Life History”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At what age was your pet taken from the nest?</li> <li>• Was your pet hand-raised or parent-raised?</li> <li>• If hand-raised, was your bird reared with siblings? With similarly aged parrots of different species? With non-similar aged birds?</li> <li>• How old was your bird when you brought it home?</li> <li>• What was the age of weaning? Who finished the hand feeding? Were there any hand-feeding problems?</li> <li>• Was your parrot sick as a baby? Please give details.</li> <li>• Is there any family history of feather picking? Please give details.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Behavior</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How would you characterize your bird's personality?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggressive</li> <li>• Anxious</li> <li>• Fearful</li> <li>• Playful</li> <li>• Relaxed</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much attention does your parrot receive daily?</li> <li>• Does your parrot demand continual attention?</li> <li>• Is your parrot afraid of new situations or objects? Please give details.</li> <li>• Does your parrot scream excessively?</li> </ul>	