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CASE STUDY

Egg Bound Syndrome: Case Report in Cockatiel

Suresh F. Nipane* and Deepak P. Madikuntawar

PET CARE CLINIC,
Bhandara 441904 (M.S.)

*Corresponding Author: dr_sureshvet12@rediffmail.com

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Abstract:

18 month old female Cockatiel was presented with the Egg bound syndrome. It occurred partial paralysis of the oviduct muscles and deficiencies of minerals. Egg bound corrected by lubrication and gentle pressure.

Key Words: Cockatiel, Egg, Oviduct.

Introduction:

Egg binding occurs when the egg does not pass through the reproductive system at a normal rate. Egg bound occurs when there is difficulty in laying an egg because of an inflammation of the oviduct or partial paralysis of the muscles of the oviduct and production of a very large egg that cannot be laid physically. This is common, and often preventable, problems in broiler breeders and not exposed to a mate, since eggs may be formed and laid without the presence of a male. This condition goes on for too long, complications and death, especially in underweight birds.



Photo: Showing egg bound in oviduct and removing the egg from oviduct

Case History and Clinical Observations:

An 18 month old Cockatiel was presented in Pet Care Clinic, Bhandara (M.S.) with the complaint with Egg bound last from 2 days after laying of two eggs. On abdominal palpation, egg bound horizontal direction in oviduct. On clinical examination abdominal straining, bobbing or wagging of the tail, drooping of the wings, wide stance, depression, loss of appetite, distended abdomen, droppings stuck to the vent area, fluffed feathers, weakness, difficult breathing (the retained egg puts pressure on the air sacs), sitting fluffed on the bottom of the cage and complications from being egg bound.

Suspected Causes for Egg Binding:

Low Calcium Levels or Hypocalcaemia Syndrome associated with low calcium levels in the blood. Supplementing the breeding hen with a diet rich in calcium and Vitamin D is an important factor in preventing this problem. Malnutrition caused by unbalance or low-protein diets. Sedentary lifestyle: Often the case when Cockatiels are kept in cages that is too small for them. The lack of exercise causes poorly developed muscles and obesity. At particular risk are sick and old birds and chronic egg laying.

Factors Causing Risk of Egg Binding:

There are a number of factors that can increase the risk of egg binding.

- 1. Species:** Egg binding is more Commercial Layers, Broiler Breeder Layers.
- 2. Age:** Young Cockatiel laying for the first time, as well as "old" birds more commonly become egg bound.
- 3. Reproductive health:** Cockatiel with reproductive problems or those that have a laying malformed or soft-shelled egg are more prone to egg binding.
- 4. Malnutrition:** Cockatiel having diets those with deficiencies in calcium, vitamin A, protein, vitamin E, or selenium are at higher risk.
- 5. Overall health:** Egg binding is more common in birds with over weight problems such as obesity as well as those under stress from environmental conditions such as improper temperature.
- 6. Egg abnormalities:** An overly large or malformed egg, or one that is not positioned correctly, is broken, or joined to other eggs.
- 7. Genetics:** Certain lines of birds may be genetically predisposed to egg binding.

Diagnosis:

Diagnosis based on the clinical signs, history and physical examination. If the bird is much stressed or in shock, it will be necessary to stabilize her before proceeding with extensive examinations.

Treatment:

The treatment will depend on the condition of the bird, severity of the signs, where the egg is located, and the length of time the Cockatiel has been egg bound. In egg bound syndrome, Cockatiel not gives the proper response to treatment. On abdominal palpation, egg bound in oviduct with malposition (horizontal direction). Lubrication done with pouring the coconut oil by syringe in cloaca and changed the

direction of egg in oviduct in vertical position. Gentle pressure by fingers, bound egg was push out and egg has thin shelled on palpation. Advice the pet owner to provide the liquid calcium, and possibly vitamins A, D₃, and E, and selenium through drinking water. Administration of electrolyte through drinking water and continued access to food and water. Provide Cocktail with high-calorie, high-calcium diet to help strengthen future eggs and prevent egg binding.

Potential Complications:

If left untreated, egg binding can result in shock and death, often within hours. In addition, other complications are more likely to occur including the retained egg may place pressure on the kidneys, affecting their function and health. If the egg ruptures while still inside of the bird, life-threatening peritonitis (a serious inflammation of the abdominal cavity) can occur. Constant straining may cause prolapse of the reproductive tract or cloaca. This can result in egg peritonitis, infection, or scarring that could result in further problems with egg binding.

Conclusion:

Providing the nutritional balance diet and preventing obesity.

Reference:

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