



Medical Center for Birds

www.medicalcenterforbirds.com

3805 Main St
Oakley, CA 94561
Brian Speer, DVM, ABVP/ECZM (Avian)
Brenna Fitzgerald, DVM

Ph: 925-625-1878
Fax: 925-625-8511
Geoff Olsen, DVM, ABVP (Avian)

The Importance of Identification for Your Bird

The potential loss from escape or theft is a very real and significant concern with many caged bird species. Identification and tracking individuals in groups or in breeding collections can, at times become quite challenging, potentially leading to impaired record keeping accuracy and sub-optimal production. The risk of financial, emotional and genetic losses can be significantly reduced through the use of identification systems in your bird. For this reason, we strongly recommend some means of permanent identification for your pet or breeding bird.

Leg Bands

If your bird has a permanent leg band in place we will want to make sure that it poses no significant risk of injury to your bird, record the Identification numbers on your medical chart, and leave the band in place. There is concern about possible risk of injury with leg bands, and some veterinarians routinely remove them from all pet birds. Unfortunately, this practice results in the actual removal of permanent identification from your bird as well. It is our belief that closed bands pose less risk to the birds than open bands, and that a properly crimped and closed open band is less risky than one that is more open due to incomplete application.

Microchips

We encourage that you consider having a microchip implanted as a means of permanent identification for your bird(s). Microchips may be used in birds that either have no leg bands, their bands were removed previously, or in circumstances where additional and permanent identification methods may be indicated. These microchips can be implanted easily in most birds over 100 grams in body weight. The cost of microchip implantation is nominal. Microchips are implanted with a needle and syringe, and there is only the discomfort of the injection felt by your bird. Anesthesia is not required. No other significant problems have been noted related to the microchip itself or the implantation of the chips.