

AFA Board Approves Three Avian Research Proposals

by Susan L. Clubb, DVM
AFA Research Committee Chairman
Miami, Florida

AFA Research Committee member Tom Ireland presented seven proposals for review by the board at this year's AFA Seattle Convention business meeting. The seven proposals were ranked in order of preference for funding by nine responding committee members. These proposals were evaluated by Dr. Amy Worell, Dr. Alan Fudge, Tom Ireland, Dr. Elliott Jacobson, Jack Clinton-Eitniear, Dr. Robert Altman, Bill Maynard, Kevin Clubb and Dr. Susan Clubb.

Proposals were evaluated on the basis of scientific merit and experimental design, feasibility, value to aviculture, and past performance of researcher. Of the seven proposals, the following are the three approved.

1. Congo-red binding in Escherichia coli isolated from the cloaca of psittacine birds — *Dr. Keven*

Flammer, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC.

Dr. Flammer referenced a procedure which has been used to differentiate pathogenic from non-pathogenic strains of E. coli isolated from poultry. He will attempt to correlate the binding of congo-red by E. coli isolated from birds with clinical illness and compare these strains with strains isolated from healthy birds. Congo red is a dye, incorporated into agar plates used to grow E. coli, which should make pathogenic strains appear red. The future application would be an easy test to determine if strains of E. coli isolated from psittacines warrant treatment.

Funding requested and approved — \$3,000.00

2. The efficacy of various disinfectants against certain psittacine viruses — *Dr. Jack Gaskin*, Department of Infectious Diseases, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

The goal of this project is to compare the effectiveness of commonly used disinfectants in destroying certain pathogenic viruses of psittacine origin (Newcastle Disease, Pacheco's, reovirus,

and papovavirus). Disinfectants to be tested include: Nolvasan (chlorhexadine), Environ (o-phynylphenol), Roccal (quarternary ammonium compound), Chlorox and formalin. Recommendations will be made on the use of disinfectants to aid in the control of viral diseases of companion birds.

Funding requested and approved — \$3,000.00

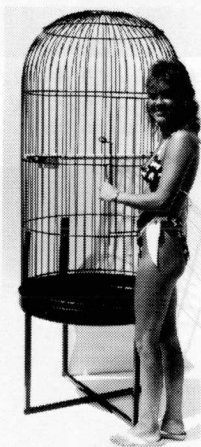
3. Treatment of psittacosis in cockatiels with chlorotetracycline medicated seed diet — *Dr. Keven Flammer*.

Dr. Flammer hopes to determine whether chlorotetracycline impregnated millet (Keet Life — Hartz Mountain) is an effective product for the treatment of psittacosis in cockatiels. The product was proven efficacious for use in budgerigars. Blood levels will be monitored over a 45 day treatment period to determine if blood levels remain at approximately 1 ug/ml (recommended blood level). This proposal was well received by the committee and approval is recommended if the board wishes to approve two proposals submitted by one researcher.

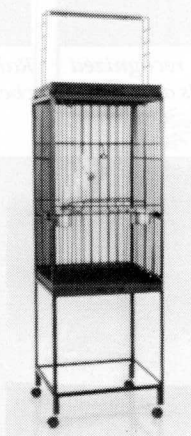
Funding requested and approved — \$2,800.00 ●

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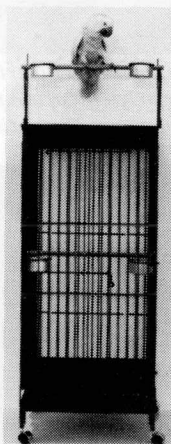
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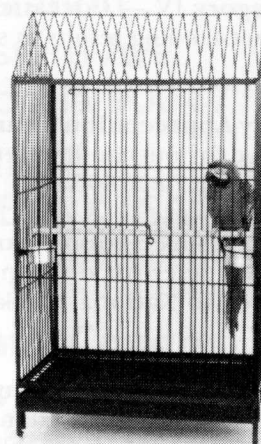
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