

RVC Exotics Service

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CHRONICEGG LAYING IN PET BIRDS

Continuous egg laying in pet birds can be a significant problem leading to life threatening conditions such as depletion of calcium, egg binding (eggs stuck in the reproductive tract), reproductive infections and behavioural problems such as aggression. The most comm0 1 .V(\Re)11(t)()12(n)14(P(o)(d20(13()o)(d))14(d(p)14(l)231 0 005 m4(l)23)(h)14(i)(h)11()10 0-121(i)

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• Removing eggs can stimulate the bird to continue to lay, as they m in place to allow her to brood them or replacing them with dummy eggs can help interrupt laying. Once the bird loses interest the eggs can be removed.

• Medical or surgical therapy can be used to reduce egg laying in combination with these other interventions. Medical therapy consists of drugs designed to reduce the hormone output from the bird's ovary. This has traditionally been either as by injection (lasts 2-3 weeks) or an implant (can last for several months). Surgical therapy may be recommended to remove the oviduct and prevent egg laying, however there are risks and possible complications associated with this, so it is only considered after all other options have failed.

IMPROVING CALCIUM LEVELS AND GENERAL HEALTH

