Applicant's name: Best Tech Ever, CVT

Case log # 5

Date October 12, 2019  Patient ID: 14-34-50  Species/Breed: Avian/African Grey Parrot (Psittacus erithacus)  Age: 1 yr  Sex: M  Wt: 0.420 kg  BCS: 3/5

Diagnosis: Severe inappropriate bilateral wing trim resulting in frequent falls and subsequent trauma, acerations, chronic ulceration, and fracture of keel.

Treatment Plan: Cleaning and debriding of the wound. Analgesic and antimicrobial therapy: butorphanol 0.42mg (1 mg/kg IM q 2-4h) and ampicillin/sulbactam 42mg (100 mg/kg IM Q12H). Client education for diet and husbandry changes.

Advanced skills & procedures performed: Restraint and venipuncture of the right jugular vein (12). Submission of blood to external laboratory for CBC and plasma biochemistry (55). Determination of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) status of 1 (23). Set-up of anesthesia machine with a non-rebreathing system and active scavenging (42, 44). Pre-anesthetic pectoral IM injections of midazolam 0.42 mg (1mg/kg) and butorphanol 0.42mg (1mg/kg) (11). Mask induction with isoflurane in oxygen. Endotracheal (ET) intubation with a non-cuffed 3.5 mm ET tube (29). Maintenance of anesthesia of isoflurane in oxygen via ET tube (30). Administration of intermittent positive pressure ventilations (IPPV) (33). Intraosseous (IO) catheter placement in the proximal tibiotarsus (14). Intraoperative IO fluid therapy administration via syringe pump at 5ml/kg/hr (15, 38). Monitoring of anesthetic parameters with the following: end-tidal CO₂, pulse oximetry, non-invasive blood pressure (NIBP), ECG, heart rate (HR), and respiratory rate (RR). Monitoring of estimated core body temperature with an esophageal probe (20, 31, 35, 37). Extubation and monitoring of patient recovery until conscious control and ambulation returned (39). Logging of medical records including surgical procedure, anesthesia duration, pharmaceuticals, and controlled substances (82). Collection of whole body radiographs including ventrodorsal and right laterolateral views (60, 61, 62,63, 65, 66). Billing of charges. Patient discharge and follow-up phone calls regarding status (88).

Advanced skills & procedures assisted: Physical examination performed by clinician and technician. The patient was alert and responsive with a subjective pain score of moderate. Her heart rate (HR) was 320 beats per minute (BPM), respiratory rate was 26 breaths per minute (BPM), and body condition score (BCS) was 3/5. She was estimated to be 5% dehydrated (5). Determination of anesthetic protocol (24). Corrective wing trim. Calculation of sedation, analgesia and antibiotic drugs (10). Evaluation of diagnostic radiographs. Client education regarding recommended diet and husbandry improvements. Client and veterinary student counseling on behavior modification techniques for aggressive behaviors in psittacines (78, 79, 80, 81).

Final Outcome: The patient presented for evaluation of a non-healing wound on the keel. History revealed that the client was a new bird owner and had been misinformed about appropriate wing trimming techniques. The bird’s wing feathers had been excessively trimmed including all of the primary and secondary feathers. Consequently, the bird was lacking coordination during flight and was unable to glide to the ground safely resulting in multiple hard landings on its keel. The physical examination revealed a large open wound on the keel with exposed bone. CBC and plasma biochemistry evaluations were within normal limits. Radiographs confirmed a fracture of the sternal keel resulting in a loose bony fragment.

The bony fragment was removed surgically, the wound was copiously lavaged with warm irrigation saline, and extensive surgical debridement was performed. The tissue was closed using a horizontal mattress primary closure with 4-0 Monocryl (poliglecaprone 25). The patient was given butorphanol 0.42mg (1 mg/kg IM q 2-4h) and ampicillin/sulbactam 42mg (100 mg/kg IM Q12H) for two days while in the hospital. He was sent home with tramadol 1.68mg (4mg/kg PO Q12H X5d) and amoxicillin clavulanate 52.5mg (125mg/kg PO Q12HX14d). The client was educated on appropriate wing trimming, which included the importance of exercise and conservatively trimming only 1-5 of the primary flight feathers in African Grey parrots. They were also counseled on diet and husbandry practices including how to convert the bird to a commercially available pelleted diet with the addition of appropriate fresh produce, discontinuing the use of water soluble vitamins, relocating the cage to a more appropriate location in the home and instructions for hygienic cage practices. The client was also counseled on behavior modification for aggressive behaviors presumed to be the result of a lack of socialization. The patient was rechecked 14 days later revealing that the wound had healed, however, the client had failed to make the recommended diet, husbandry and behavioral changes at home.

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