



ARIZONA BIRD CLINIC

Feather Damaging Behavior Questionnaire

Date _____

Pet's name _____

Species _____ Color _____ Age _____ Gender _____

Where did you acquire this bird?

How long have you had this bird?

What is the diet? Be very specific and list all treats, vitamins and additives as well.

How often is the food and water changed?

What kind of food and water bowls?

What kind of cage and what kind of liner
at the bottom?

How often is the cage cleaned?

What kind of perches?

What time does the bird get up in the morning?

What time does the bird go to bed?

Covered up and/or dark at night?

Does the bird have a chance to be outside?

What kind and how often baths or showers?

Do you use any sprays or other products on the bird?

Do you use a blow dryer on the bird?

Do you use a humidifier or air filtering system?

List children, pets, other people who share the home:

Any construction, renovation, exterminators, new carpet, etc.?

What kinds of flooring: carpet, tile, etc.

List what kind of laundry detergent and other products:

Votive candles, incense, air fresheners, fireplace?

Fragrances, scented hair/beauty products?

Smokers share the house? (even if they smoke outside and smoke other than tobacco)

Does the behavior seem to be seasonal?

When did it start?

Any certain time of day?

Does it happen when you are present or gone?

What part of the body is most damaged?

Other comments:

Feather destructive behavior is a frustrating syndrome for the bird, the owner, and the veterinarian. It has many causes: psychological, physical, spiritual, environmental, and pathological. Finding out why the behavior occurs is the most important step, and this involves medical examination, laboratory tests, and husbandry and behavior questions. The detective work may involve some very nosy and personal questions about the family lifestyle.

Treatment will be a combination of medical therapy, husbandry changes, and behavior modification for the bird, the owner, and owner's family. Treatment doesn't always work, because the causes are so complicated and difficult. Most cases will improve a great deal and some will be cured. But because birds have such highly developed mental capacities and complex behavior, and because we cannot completely mimic their natural habitat, some cases will be very difficult.

