

Ve8 Powder to Control Digestive Disorders in Pet Birds

Carlingford Animal Hospital

Digestive disorders are common in pet birds. Ve8 powder is used as part of an immediate or long-term treatment plan to restore healthy digestive function. Ve8 is particularly beneficial for birds with ongoing digestive problems by promoting the establishment of healthy gut microflora that overrun the proliferation of harmful bacteria, thereby eliminating a need for repeat antibiotic treatments.

There are many possible causes to digestive disorders. Vitamin D deficiency, dysfunctional ovaries, dietary deficiencies, foreign body obstructions, heavy metal toxicity, food spoilage, environmental germs and contaminated drinking water are amongst the most common causes. All these conditions upset digestive function and predispose to potentially life-threatening gut infections. Ve8 Powder is included in the treatment plan for all of these conditions. Ve8 Powder is given as part of the immediate treatment plan to aid the function of antibiotics in eliminating gut infections. It then replaces antibiotics as a means for controlling future infections whilst your bird fully recovers from its digestive disorder. Ve8 Powder is also used with Quik Gel as first aid treatment whenever symptoms of indigestion arise.

The time span Ve8 Powder is required depends upon the exact cause of the digestion disorder. Birds with long-standing digestion disorders caused by vitamin D deficiency, fatty liver disease, dietary deficiencies and ongoing ovarian dysfunction may require ongoing Ve8 therapy for several months. A much shorter 2-4 week course of Ve8 Powder is given following an acute onset digestive disorder (e.g. ingestion of foreign matter or contaminated foodstuff) in previously healthy birds. On occasions continuous Ve8 Powder therapy may be required to control persistent gut infections in birds that have suffered permanent damage to the digestive organs as a result of a serious injury or chronic illness.

Ve8 Powder is also used to protect pet birds from the inescapable contamination problems associated with the household environment. All pet birds, especially those allowed regular free-flight opportunities within the household setting, will become exposed to some form of health-damaging contamination irrespective of the level of cleanliness and hygiene employed. Ve8 Powder is used with Quik Gel as the first line of attack to treat and control gastrointestinal infections associated with these everyday pollutants.

The free-flying experience is highly beneficial for the happiness and wellbeing of pet birds. This activity should be encouraged but there must be protection from known contamination sources such as high curtain rails, shelves etc. where dust accumulates quickly. Weekly cleaning and disinfecting (e.g. Protector) of these known roosting areas is needed to control re-infection but this routine may not give full protection against these key areas of contamination. These infection dangers are most likely to surface following warm humid and wet weather conditions. Staphylococcus, Klebsiella, other bacteria, yeasts and moulds are the most common environmental germs. It is inevitable that at some time pet birds allowed regular free flight opportunities will be exposed to potential harm from these sources of contamination. Ve8 Powder has been developed to control gastrointestinal infections associated with these dangers.

Healthy Digestion in Pet Birds

The digestive process in parrots and other birds begins when food enters the crop. The crop acts as a storage organ where food is softened. The food then passes into the stomach where it is mixed and further softened with acidic digestive juices. After a suitable time in the stomach, the partially digested food moves into the gizzard where it is pulverised into small particles. The pulverised food then passes into the intestine where digestive enzymes chemically extract nutrients so they can be absorbed and assimilated into the body.

Healthy digestion is defined as the fastest possible rate of complete digestion. This means the food passes through the gut very quickly. Unhealthy digestion occurs when there is a slowdown of the passage of food through the gut. This sluggish digestion causes rapid fermentation and toxic bi-products that cause sudden and serious illness that is potentially fatal. Birds at most risk to sluggish digestion and the harmful effects of gas forming and other bacterial gut infections are those with underlying health issues.

Ve8 Facts

Ve8 Powder is a combination of two carefully selected prebiotics, yeast metabolites and remedial herbs. The prebiotics in Ve8 Powder represent a holistic means for managing the health of the digestive tract in birds.

Prebiotic Definition

A prebiotic is a non-digestible dietary ingredient that beneficially affects the host by stimulating the growth of and/or activating the metabolism of health promoting bacteria (normal gut microflora) in the intestinal tract. Prebiotics limit the development of disease forming bacteria in the digestive tract in a natural way. They act by promoting the growth of "friendly" acid forming bacteria and other bacteria that inhibit the growth of toxic gas forming bacteria that have suddenly appeared as a result of sluggish digestion. In many instances, prebiotics can replace the need for antibiotics when used at the start of digestive disturbances. They also have a positive effect on nutrient digestibility, improve dropping quality and assist with natural immune defences.

Prebiotic Function

Prebiotics work differently from probiotics. Unlike probiotics, prebiotics do not consist of friendly bacteria, but instead promote the growth of naturally occurring friendly bacteria already naturally present in the gastro-intestinal tract. These friendly bacteria act in a way that keeps the bowel healthy and free of disease forming bacteria. Lactobacillus and Bifidobacteria are considered the most significant "friendly" bacteria in birds. Ve8 Powder includes 2 prebiotics (MOS and FOS) that promote the proliferation of these beneficial bacteria.

MOS is a prebiotic derived from the cell wall of fermented yeast. This yeast by-product is included in Ve8 Powder for its role in acidifying the bowel. Most digestive disorders decrease the acidity of the stomach and intestines, which predisposes to the sudden overgrowth with harmful bacteria. The role of MOS is to stimulate the growth of Lactobacillus in the intestinal tract to produce lactic acid. It is the acidifying effect of this bacterial proliferation that initiates recovery and restores healthy digestive function by inhibiting the growth of disease-forming E.coli and as toxic gas-forming clostridiatype infections. FOS is a prebiotic specifically selected for its ability to naturally control and prevent gas forming bacterial infections associated with sluggish digestion or the ingestion of contaminated food or water. E.coli is another major consequence of retarded digestion in pet birds.

The combined effect of MOS and FOS is to restore the normal rate of digestion by increasing the acidity of the bowel and preventing fermentation by gas forming bacteria. Significantly, prebiotics offer the best opportunity to maintain perfect droppings, which are the window to health digestion and immune health, without relying upon the repeated use of antibiotics to control ongoing gastrointestinal infections.

Ve8 Home Treatment Plans

Immediate Home Treatment Plan

Ve8 powder is mixed into the seed with Turbobooster, E-Powder & F-Vite during the 5-day antibiotics treatment to help establish normal digestive function as quickly as possible.

Follow-up Treatment

Ve8 replaces antibiotics after recheck culture tests show no further need for medicine treatments. The combined effect of the prebiotics and herbal remedies in Ve8 Powder help to restore healthy digestion. The follow-up treatment focuses on controlling gas forming bacterial infections whilst healthy digestion is being restored.

Ve8 Powder is given for 2 consecutive days then again 3 days later and repeated as part of a rotation treatment plan for 2-4 weeks. The underlying cause of the digestive disturbance determines the duration of this follow-up plan, which will be advised by Dr Marshall.

Ongoing Treatment Plans

Birds diagnosed with longstanding health issues such as vitamin D deficiency, immunity problems and dietary errors that predispose them to repeat digestive disturbances will require ongoing Ve8 powder treatments. In this situation Ve8 Powder is incorporated into the regular health programme (e.g. Vitamin D Programme, Digestive Aid Programme, Ovarian Dysfunction Programme etc.) according to Dr Marshall's instruction.

First Aid Treatment

Digestion disorders need to be managed before they lead to serious illness. Ve8 powder is used with Quik Gel as the first line of attack for birds susceptible to digestive disturbance. The function of Ve8 Powder is to restore healthy digestion and stimulate immunity, which protects against the harmful infectious consequences of sluggish digestion and contamination in the home environment.

This first aid treatment is given at the first signs of illness. Silence, reluctance to leave the cage for flight exercise, a fluffed up look and watery greenish droppings are signs of a health failing. These changes appear suddenly and are most noticeable in the morning. Therefore a regular morning health check gives the best opportunity to prevent illness in birds susceptible to digestive disturbance by identifying health failings in their infancy and initiating the Ve8 first aid treatment as early as possible.

Ve8 powder is mixed in the seed with Turbobooster, E-Powder and F-Vite immediately when your bird shows any signs of digestive disturbance. Quik Gel is given in the drinking water. During this first aid treatment, which is given for 2-3 days, your bird must be caged where it can rest and be protected from outside contamination. Full recovery should be noticed by the third morning following this first aid treatment plan as your bird starts to make noises of happiness, seek your attention and its droppings are no longer watery. KD is then given for 1 day after which time your regular health programme is resumed. Seek veterinary advice when your bird fails to show signs of increased activity by the second day of Ve8 and Quik Gel or has not fully recovered its normal behaviour by the third morning.

Small Parrots, canaries & finches: 1 white spoon (1gm) into 200gm of seed using Turbobooster as a binding oil.

Large Parrots: 1 white spoon (1gm) onto 200gm of fruit, cooked vegetables or mixed into 200gm of seed using Turbobooster as a binding oil.