

Factors affecting the moulting process



Medications

Some medications may affect the growth of new. Some medications may affect the growth of new feathers either delaying the growth of the feather or leading to feather abnormalities.

Recommendation

Check with your veterinarian about the possible effects of any medication on feather growth.



Light

The moulting process is dependent on daylight length and intensity. Moderate exposure to natural sunlight is necessary for the regulation of moulting.

Recommendation

In enclosed aviaries ensure there is access to natural light.



Temperature

Extremes of temperature are stress factors for the falcon. A moderate temperature is required to assist with the molting process.

Recommendation

Reduce possible effects by housing the falcon in a moderate temperature environment.



Hormones

Hormones will impact the growth of the feathers. Avoid the use of hormonal products during the moult, it may lead to feather growth abnormalities.

Recommendation

Should hormonal medications be necessary check with your veterinarian about the possible effects on feather growth. The dropping test will show if internal parasites are present.

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Food

Proper nutrition is of the utmost importance during the moult. The moult creates a large demand for nutrition, especially protein and the balance of amino acids.



Recommendation

Care must be taken to provide disease-free prey items, source the prey items only from a trusted supplier, and use the necessary supplements designed for feather growth.

Supplements

During the moult, nutritional supplements are recommended to ensure feather growth is optimal. Sulfur-containing amino acids (methionine and cystine), zinc, and vitamins are essential for feather formation.



Recommendation

Balance prey items with a recognised supplement.

Stress

Any factor that severely stresses the falcon during the moult will cause "stress lines" to appear in the feather. These are weak points in the feather and are prone to break. Once formed they cannot be repaired until the affected feather is shed and a new one grows.



Stress factors may include environmental, nutritional, and disease causes.

Recommendation

Eliminate any stress factors from the falcon surrounding environment. Keep falcons in the least aggregated aviary possible.

Diseases

External Parasites (Mite, Lice & tick), Internal Parasites (Worms, Coccidia, Canker, etc.), Bacterial & Fungal infections, (Aspergillosis, E.coli etc.)



Any of the above may induce a stress response in the falcon, it is important that prior to the moult these conditions are eliminated.

Recommendation

Boosting the immune system of the falcon prior and during prior to and during the moult. A veterinary check is indicated if a disease is suspected.