

Falcon Moulting Checklist



Handler Checklist



Insects & injuries

Eliminate insects from the environment with a safe insecticide. Be aware of the falcon's normal behaviour and movement, and check the falcon if concerned.



Tools & equipment

Disinfection of food and water bowls and perching is necessary.



Droppings

Dropping gives a clue to internal disease. Observe droppings daily and have them checked for worms and coccidia regularly.



Appetite

Changes in appetite may signal the start of illness. Any change in appetite that lasts more than 48 hours should be investigated.



Illness

Act quickly when you notice sickness, falcons are very good at hiding signs of illness. Immediately isolate the falcon and contact your veterinarian.

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Medical check-ups by an avian veterinarian

Endoscopy



The use of endoscopy is routine in falcons, particularly for the diagnosis of Aspergillosis and lungworms. Try to perform an endoscopy procedure for your falcon prior to the moulting period.



Microscopic Dropping Test

This test is non-invasive and only requires a dropping retrieved from the aviary. The dropping test will show if internal parasites are present.



Blood test

A routine blood screen is very accurate at detecting disease and abnormalities before the falcon becomes visibly ill. The test is relatively low-stress and gives good information on the health of the falcon.



X-ray

A radiograph may be indicated if the veterinarian is concerned about the health of the falcon. The X-ray will detect changes in organ size, clarity of air sacs, and the presence of bone abnormalities. It may be stressful for the falcon so pre-moulting is the time to have this procedure performed.



Beak & talon trimming

At a veterinary, checking the beak and talons may require trimming to prevent accumulation of food in the oral cavity or foot damage due to overgrown talons.



Vaccination

Check with your avian veterinarian regarding the need and availability of vaccines for your falcon. Only accept vaccines from reputable manufacturers.