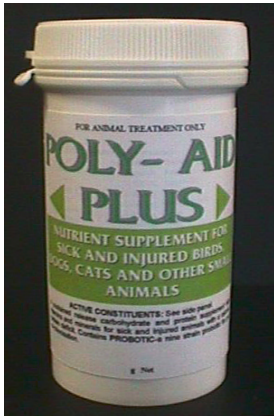


POLY-AID PLUS : The Mainstay of First Aid in Birds



"The mainstay of first aid in birds" is how Dr. Tony Gestier, veterinarian at the Vetafarm Research Facility in Wagga Wagga, Australia, describes Vetafarm's protein and energy supplement, POLY-AID PLUS.

As a treatment for sick and injured cage birds the unique formula provides energy to birds that won't eat due to poor health. The physical condition of the sick or injured bird often deteriorates while diagnosis and treatment are begun. Nutritional support is used in all animals to "buy time" to allow medicines to work or surgery to be performed, but in birds this is especially important.

Poor health and deficient nutrient

According to Dr Gestier, poor health and nutrient deficit go hand in hand. Disease, stress, injury, shipping and chilling can cause a bird to be in "negative nutrient balance". Appetite is reduced in all ill birds, adding to the deficit of energy and protein. "Birds use tremendous amounts of energy, and when appetite diminishes, this energy quickly falls into short supply, the bird then breaks down its muscle tissue to obtain energy causing it to become thin and weak" he explained. "This is especially a problem in young or severely stressed birds that do not have reserves to fall back on". POLY-AID PLUS, however, effectively provides the bird with more energy and prevents muscle tissue from wasting away.

The secret

The secret to the energy supply in POLY-AID PLUS is the use of special polymers called *maltodextrins*. "These long chains of glucose break down slowly in the birds stomach to release glucose units for absorption and

energy" said Dr Gestier. This supply of energy prevents the bird from drawing on its own muscle tissue to keep organs like the liver and brain functioning.

Contains Maltodextrins, amino acids, vitamins, minerals and salts

Maltodextrins are not the only beneficial ingredient in this first aid formula. The supplement also contains amino acids (the building blocks of protein) that are readily absorbed by the bird's digestive system and are used to build muscle again. Added vitamins, minerals and salts are included to assist the bird to utilise the proteins and calories provided by POLY-AID PLUS.

The aim of the product

Dr. Gestier said that this powdered formula was devised with the aim of producing a concentrated energy source without upsetting the gut. Due to the slow release of glucose molecules from the Maltodextrins the diarrhoea associated with ordinary glucose supplements does not occur. The Vetafarm team drew on research work done in human endurance athletes to devise the perfect formula for avicultural first aid.

The key is early intervention

"Early intervention is the key to successful treatment of birds" said Dr Gestier. "Nutritional support must be given as soon as

possible in the illness to prevent the bird becoming emaciated". POLY-AID PLUS should not be considered a drug or a specific cure for disease, it is used to keep the bird alive long enough to allow birdkeepers and veterinarians to diagnose the problem and begin treatment. Although this product will not fix disease, by supporting the bird with energy and protein the birds own defence mechanisms can often overcome the problem.

Longer term force feeding of birds can be done with POLY-AID PLUS and Hand rearing Food. Birds that are in hospital boxes often require long term feeding with highly digestible foods rich in energy, protein and vitamins.

Dr Gestier suggested that all birdkeepers should learn to crop feed birds so that good nutrition is not neglected in sick birds.

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