

**POSTER**

# Behavioural and biological evaluation of psitacids suffering stress-related disorders

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Psitacids are very popular pet birds, highly appreciated for their cognitive capabilities including the imitation of human voice. This avian family includes very different species coming from very different biotopes and having very specific needs. The lack of precise information available to future owners, as well as the origin of some birds (coming from illegal providers) leads many birds to develop distress-related disorders. Feather pecking, anorexia, aggression, inappropriate vocalizations are some of the most common symptoms observed in such species. The aim of this study is to describe the most common associations of symptoms and their relationship with different kind of stressful environments and human-bird relationships.

## Material and Methods

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The study was conducted in a psitacids rescue centre approved by the french authorities. A population of 114 psitacids belonging to 22 species were enrolled on the study. All the birds had experienced acute or chronic stress and/or had been abused before arriving at the centre. The case history of every bird was obtained from the centre staff. Each bird was physically examined and feather or skin lesions described. Behaviour was observed using videotaping to measure the rate of self-directed behaviours, vocalizations, stereotypies. A blood sample was obtained to determine the Heterophil/Lymphocyte Ratio (HLR), a biological parameter commonly used to assess stress in birds.

The data obtained from the physical examination and the behavioural observation was analysed by using Main Component Analysis to describe the different