

EGG BINDING IN BIRDS

Egg binding is the inability of a hen to pass a developed or partially developed egg. The inability to pass the egg quickly results in the death of the hen. Female birds can generate eggs even if they're not exposed to or mating with a male. If you have a female bird, you might someday come upon an egg or two that she's laid in her cage, exclusive of having a proper nest.

CAUSES

There are lots of theories on why egg binding occurs, but most theories aren't strong enough to explain all cases of egg binding. The most viable theory is that egg binding is caused by poor nutrition. Problems metabolizing Calcium properly, caused by a lack of Vitamin D3 or too much Phosphorus in the diet, and damaged mucous membranes in the vent area are some theories.

PREVENTION

- Use of full-spectrum lighting for all birds to help with Vitamin D3 absorption
- Using Vitamin D3 supplements
- Feeding foods with a proper Calcium to Phosphorus ratio (about 2 times as much Calcium as Phosphorus)
- Feeding foods high in linoleic acid (Vitamin F) and Vitamin A, this will help to keep the cloaca membranes soft and flexible.

TREATMENT

- Call a vet immediately! Egg binding can be deadly.
- Keep the bird warm and quiet environment.
- Give your bird Calcium, as it will help her to expel the egg.
- Massage a small amount of vegetable oil around to her vent help the hen passes the egg.
- Once the egg has passed, you should now assess the nutritional problems that caused this problem in the first place.

