

Peanuts

To Whom It May Concern,

I know you have very high regards for the health and safety of birds. What I don't know is, are you aware that you may be contributing to the death of large parrots?

I recently had a Blue and Gold Macaw die of Aspergillosis. This led to researching this disease and I was in shock to learn that what I had been feeding him for nine years may have contributed greatly to his death. This led to my conviction of eliminating a major source of aspergillus spores from all bird food.

Aspergillosis is a disease originating from aspergillus spores. There are many species of these spores and many more sources of them but the most alarming source is from the seed many parrot owners use on a daily basis. Never would parrot owners knowingly feed their birds anything that has the potential to kill them.

I started my mission by relaying this information to the end consumer, the parrot owners. I have written a very informative article on Aspergillosis and submitted it for publication to many media sources. It has already been published on many exotic bird websites and in several bulletins and newsletters and has been approved for publication starting November 2007 in major magazines all around the world i.e. Bird Talk Magazine, Australian Birdkeeper Magazine, Parrot Magazine UK, Avizandum (South Africa), Good Bird, Inc., New Zealand Birdz, Aloha Parrot, and Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program to name a few.

The next step is what I am doing right now which is to plead with bird seed manufacturers and suppliers to stop putting peanuts (in the shell) in their seed blends. I am writing this letter and sending it to every manufacturer and supplier of seed blends and treats around the world that I can find.

Peanuts like any physical matter or tuber grown in the ground can contain aspergillus spores. Seed blends for macaw sized parrots almost always contain peanuts in the shell and just like my parrots; most parrots love to chew on them. An overwhelming number of asper spores being ingested can settle in the gastrointestinal tract and form granulomas (tumors made of asper spores) which spread throughout the body and can kill a parrot. Aspergillosis is a very hard disease to diagnose. It is often way past the opportunity to help these birds by the time it is diagnosed and even if there is in time to save the bird, the owner unknowingly keeps feeding seed blends with peanuts with asper spores on them at the same time their veterinarian is trying to eradicate the disease. It's a no win situation.

I doubt it if the peanut industry will appreciate this but parrot owners will rejoice. Parrots don't have much of a chance when it comes to Aspergillosis so we need to do everything possible to reduce the number of spores they ingest. I'm sure once consumers are aware of this problem they will be looking for seed blends and

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treats that do not contain peanuts in the shell. Manufacturing and supplying a healthier parrot food is what we all want from you. Please help.

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As of September 29, 2007 there are 3,940 references to Aspergillosis, Parrots and Peanuts on the web.