

Niles Animal Hospital and Bird Medical Center

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Dear Don:

I have been a loyal and enthusiastic user of AVI-CULTURE since the time when you had first introduced it to me upon its release several years ago. As we have a large avian practice, it has been an essential part of our treatment and disease prevention protocols for years, producing excellent results in our patients.

It has proved very useful in a wide variety of circumstances in our practice. AVI-CULTURE can be used preventatively to keep the gut bacteria in balance to ensure the health of any type of pet bird. It is useful during times of stress, such as molting or breeding, to prevent overgrowth of yeast (*Candida*) or pathogenic, opportunistic bacterial populations.

One of the most common reasons we prescribe AVI-CULTURE is as an adjunct to antibiotic therapy. Antibiotics can eliminate the normal, "good" gut bacteria, leading to an overgrowth of secondary yeast organisms. The repopulation of the gut with the live cultures in AVI-CULTURE prevents this overgrowth and ensures a normal population of bacteria to remain in the GI tract.

We also frequently use AVI-CULTURE as the primary means of treating *Candida* infections in the intestinal tracts of birds. In the past Nystatin (an anti-fungal drug) would be given orally, but the effectiveness and ease of treatment with AVI-CULTURE (applying it to the food) has made it our preferred method of treating these yeast infections.

Periodically, we will come across a situation where a bird has loose droppings or a pasted vent with no obvious physical reason and no abnormalities found in the fecal sample or bloodwork. This may just be simply be due to a change in the normal gut bacteria population and the use of AVI-CULTURE can restore that balance and resolve the problem.

I was very interested when you told me about the release of AVI-CULTURE-2 and filled me in on the improvements in the product making it a much more powerful, potent, and effective probiotic. The fact that it contains eight strains of avian specific "good" bacteria with a combined potency of over two billion colony forming units per gram shows why it packs such a "healthy punch" to keep the gut in the proper equilibrium state.

As with the original AVI-CULTURE, AVI-CULTURE-2 is a very refined product with no harmful additives, but the good news is that it is very palatable and eagerly accepted by the birds! Although it can be used in the water, we always instruct our clients to add it to the food as it will last longer, because when it is placed in the drinking water it will lose its punch in a couple hours and the water will need to be changed.

What really also excited me about AVI-CULTURE-2 was its shelf life. Original AVI-CULTURE required refrigeration for storage, but AVI-CULTURE-2 remains stable for two years (or "Best-If-Used By" date) if stored at room temperature of 70 degrees F or less. If it is stored in the

refrigerator it has a shelf life of five years! It should be sealed so no moisture gets inside the container and it should never be frozen. This prolonged shelf life is a great aspect of the product.

In my over thirty-some years in avian practice I have seen many probiotic products come and go, with more to come in the future. But in my experience I have never found any product to be as effective as AVI-CULTURE and now even better as AVI-CULTURE-2. The effectiveness of the product is due to the presence of live bacterial cultures which are SPECIFIC for the digestive tract of pet birds. This is why this fine product stands out.

You should take pride in your product and know that it has helped countless sick birds as well as helping to keep a multitude in good health!

From a satisfied long time user of AVI-CULTURE,

Peter S Sakas DVM