

## **Avian Giardia Infections**

*Giardia* is microscopic protozoan parasite that can inhabit the pet's intestinal tract.

Infection is most common in cockatiels, budgerigars (parakeet). Transmission of giardiasis is from ingesting fresh fecal matter from another infected bird

Affected birds may be unthrifty, show mushy feces and have skin and feather problems. Broken tail feathers can be a sign of infection in young cockatiels

Chronic infections reduce absorption of nutrients; compounded by seed malnutrition. Allergic skin problems can occur in cockatiels.

All exposed birds should be treated.

Treatment failures can occur; follow up examination is essential.

