

Wing Clipping

Occasionally we are asked to clip bird's wings to assist in their taming, or limit the damage they can do to the house, or reduce the risk of escape. **We do not perform this procedure** as there are many serious welfare and health concerns.

When a wing is clipped it **seriously compromises the bird's welfare** by preventing its natural ability to fly. Flying is a form of defence to escape predation. Clipped birds may be persistently frightened due to the risk of predation (by owners, cats or dogs) and may generate vices (research has shown that self-mutilation and other behavioural problems are common in clipped birds) as a result.

If a bird is clipped it may attempt to escape by launching itself off its cage and can damage its breast muscles on landing. It may start to feather pluck at the site of this pain. Bone infection may result and many of these keel wounds can take weeks to heal even with treatment.

Birds may also start to feather pluck at the site of the wing clip as the normal feather anatomy has been distorted.

When the bird moults, new feather quills may be left unprotected and as a result may get traumatised and bleed. This is very painful.

Problems moulting may occur due to the lack of weight of the clipped feather. The old quill may be unable to fall out of the follicle.

It is the Ark Veterinary Clinics Ltd view that wing clipping is unnecessary and can lead to serious long term behavioural and medical & neurological problems.

