

Signs Of A Healthy Bird Beak

Know how to tell if your bird's beak is healthy

By Rebecca Sweat

Know the signs to look for in your bird's behavior to ensure its beak is healthy. Courtesy Rebecca & Eric Frank, WA

Good beak health is vital to your bird's physical well-being. If your bird's beak is healthy, it's going to be eating, chewing, playing and keeping busy. If something is wrong with your bird's beak, however, it may hurt to eat or chew and the bird may stop engaging in normal beak-related activities. What are some signs to watch out for?

A color change can indicate a problem. There should not be discolored areas or spots on your bird's beak, especially red or black. You should also look for unusual textures on the surface of the beak. There shouldn't be a lot of cracks, peeling layers, puncture holes or noticeable chips on the beak, and the beak should have no crusty spots at the corners. The beak should be smooth with no raised portions or depressions. "A healthy bird may have some tiny flakes and lines on its beak, but the beak should be symmetrical, and the layers should not peel off easily," Nye said.

The length of the beak is also important to monitor. "The upper beak should align with the lower beak," Burkett stated. "With the beak completely closed, the tip of the beak should not extend more than 12 to 34 an inch below the edge of the lower beak." If the bird is healthy, the upper and lower beak should meet completely and evenly.