



**AVIAN GASTRIC YEAST
(MACRORHABDUS, MEGABACTERIA)**

Definition: Avian Gastric Yeast is yeast that is often difficult to diagnose. Although it is commonly found in parrotlets, cockatiels, lovebirds and other Australian parrots, it is also seen in finches, canaries and many other parrot species.

Signs: Any of the following:

Thinness

Sudden Death-Especially canaries and finches

Undigested food in feces

Regurgitation

Doing poorly

✘ No signs-carrier

Testing: No one test is definitive. False negatives are common. PCR testing of feces and / or oral secretions, swabs from the mouth, fecal for staining and direct mounts. Repeat testing is often needed.

Treatment: The only drug known at this time is Amphotericin B for at least 30 days, although other treatments are being investigated. Acidification of the GI tract has been thought in the past to help eliminate this yeast; but there is no data to support this theory.