

# CAPRICORNIA BUDGERIGAR SOCIETY INC.



The Secretary – CBS Inc.  
P.O. Box 10165  
Frenchville  
Queensland 4701

Webpage: [www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)

**December 2024**

Dear Members,

As the year rapidly comes to a close, it is a time of reflection. Did we do things well? I think our three shows for the year were huge successes, but I still think we can do better. We need to encourage our newer members to show, if the beginners don't show they are not only missing out on learning the finer points of showing but are missing the enjoyment gained from the comradery of mixing with like minded enthusiasts and the valuable knowledge gained in improving their birds. Along with this we need to attract new members especially young and junior members, these members are the future of our hobby.

Our meetings could be more successful, and by that I think, if we could attract more members to attend meetings and participate, we would get a bigger range of ideas and members would get to know one another better. Our table shows have dropped off considerably and we need to rejuvenate them. These are a great learning experience especially for newer members to the hobby and provide great show training for our birds.

I think we need to have more social events. These events are a great way of cultivating friendships and sharing information in an informal way. It is also a great way of encouraging new members and retaining membership. A social club is a strong and successful club. Part of this would be to reintroduce a lawn show or two. Maybe some of our more senior members could take on a roll of mentoring a new or beginner member.

On a sad note, we lost a some of our treasured senior members this past year. We hope everyone remembers them and wishes their families all the best in the future.

The committee wishes all our members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all have a successful year in your personal life, good health and a great breeding and showing success ahead. With the National Show in Cairns now is the time to start sorting out our birds for selection and the show preparation. This is your year.

Russell Ogden  
(Newsletter Editor, CBS Inc.) [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com)

## MEMBERS INFORMATION PAGE

- **Committee Members:** Confirmed at AGM

- |                 |                 |              |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President:      | Russell Ogden   | 0437 025 793 |
| Vice-President: | Kev O'Callaghan | 0411 956 345 |
| Treasurer:      | Michael Evans   | 0409 160 569 |
| Secretary:      | Shayla Evans    | 0408 731 846 |

- EMAIL Addresses: To allow for more efficient distribution of club information, please forward a test email or your email address to [cbudgerigars@gmail.com](mailto:cbudgerigars@gmail.com) and for newsletters to [ogdenrc@bigpond.com](mailto:ogdenrc@bigpond.com) **Thanks to all those who have forwarded these details previously.**
- **SHOW & WIN!!!!!!!** Starting at our 2023 Breeders Show, you will become eligible to win a \$200 Credit at our Annual Auction by showing at the 3 Major Shows (Breeders 2023, Annual 2024, Young Bird Show 2024). You will receive one ticket for showing 1 to 10 birds, 2 tickets for 11 to 20 entries, etc. After the Young Bird Selection Show in 2024, the winner will be drawn. The more you show, the better chance you have to win. It is only open to CBS Inc members. You must show at all 3 shows unless you are judging the show or are genuinely ill or have a family emergency. The aim of this incentive is to encourage members to show consistently at all 3 shows.
- Services Section: The Club Shirt is now being worn by many members. If you want to purchase one, contact Shayla Evans 0408 731 846 (Please do not call after 7:00 pm) Shayla will also have a supply of 2024 rings, (65 cents each and sold in lots of 25, postage is extra \$5.00) and show cages and cage fronts if anyone needs some.
- Future CBS Variety of the Year are as follows: 2025: - Greywing. 2026: - Crested. These are judged at the Annual Show each

# Investigation of Runt Chicks

Taken from the BVC Budgie News

Ever had one or two nests, have one or two chicks that just fail to thrive, yet the rest of the nest is fine? They have been coined runt chicks or woody chicks due to their spindly legs that have no muscle cover and thin brittle bones.

The BCV in its continuation to ensure animal welfare and assist breeders in obtaining best outcomes in their flocks asked me to investigate this. I was fortunate enough to go to aviaries throughout Victoria and investigate.

## The Problem:

Breeders across various geographic locations are experiencing a Phenomenon where one or two chicks in a nest, known as “runt chicks” or “woody chicks,” exhibit failure to thrive. These chicks have spindly legs with minimal muscle and thin brittle bones. Despite being in clean, well-ventilated environments, breeders report issues such as poor fertility, addled eggs, and early chick death. This problem affects breeders from champion to beginner levels. Is it a new contagious virus or a bacteria? Should I purchase from a breeder that has had this happen?

## Symptoms of Runt Chicks:

- Smaller size compared to other chicks of similar age.
- At 10 days, leg rings fall off: even at 15-20 days, rings do not stay on due to spindly legs.
- Skinny malnourished appearance.
- Fragile bones with an inability to thrive.
- Often results in death while other chicks develop normally.

## Initial Diagnostic Tests and Findings:

### Runt Chick Testing:

The initial step was to take samples for the common causes of sick birds: Multiple samples from a runt sample chick.

## Results:

Sample from runt chick faeces- Culture growth at lab.

- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Salmonella sp.
- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Camylobacter sp.

- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Yersinia sp.
- Normal intestinal flora was found from chick.

The runt chick was tested via-- PCR- Very sensitive test looking for DNA of viral and bacterial DNA- Feather: vent swab and a blood spot were analysed.

Chlamydia PCR: Not Detected.

Polyomavirus (French Moul) PCR: Not Detected.

As this wasn't much help, we then turned our attention to the parents.

### Parent Bird Testing:

#### Parents

#### Results:

Sample from parents faeces- Culture grown at lab.

- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Salmonella sp
- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Camylobacter sp.
- Faecal culture NEGATIVE for Yersinia sp.
- Normal intestinal flora isolated.

Sample grown from **Choana/mouth** of parents:

1 Moderate growth of Raoultella ornithinolytica

2 Light growth of Staphylococcus haemolyticus

Antibiotic	Organism 1	Organism 2
Amp / Amoxycillin	R	
Ceftazidime	S	
Gentamicin	R	
Amoxycillin		R
Amox / clav.acid	S	R
Doxycycline	R	R
Chlortetracycline	R	R
Trim / Sulpha	S	S
Enrofloxacin /Baytril	S	S
Azithromycin		S

#### Legend:

S = Sensitive

I = Intermediate Susceptibility

R = Resistant

\*\*\*\*\*As a side note we should look at the use of Doxycycline (Doxyvet) and Chlortetracycline (Triple C) as most breeders use this regularly and now it is ineffective on organisms it used to be effective on. However, they still have a role to play in chlamydia prevention / treatment.

Parents were also tested via—PCR test for DNA of viral and Bacterial DNA

Chlamydia PCR Not Detected

Polyomavirus (French Moul) PCR Not Detected

This was interesting but bacterial /viral cause was an unlikely cause given not all chicks were affected.

The next step was to humanely euthanase the runt chick and have it sent to an avian histopathologist to look at all internal organs for answers.

### **Histopathology of Runt Chick:**

Results: (In layman's terms)

The lesions in the kidney indicated dehydration. The change in the adrenal glands was severe and consistent with adrenal insufficiency associated with stress. There was no microscopic evidence of Polyomavirus infection (French Moul) in the sections of liver, kidney or feathers. The changes in the liver showed that the chick was fighting general infection. There were no microscopic changes in liver to indicate any type of viral, bacterial or Chlamydial infection. There is dilation of mucous glands in the proximal oesophagus that may be a manifestation of early vitamin A deficiency. Sections of the intestine show large amounts of undigested plant material mixed with large numbers of mixed bacteria indicative of intestinal bacteria overgrowth. One unusual type of long gram-negative bacterium resembling a stack of coins. There is minimal inflammation of the intestine.

These results were fascinating... Most of the aviaries were supplementing with multiple products containing vitamin A.

All of this was presented to Dr Rob Marshall. Quite simply suggested the birds were not prepared well for the breeding process and needed almost ideal situations to have reproductive success. The parents had no reserves to buffer any adverse conditions. With unusual weather patterns becoming more common, birds have little ability to buffer extreme cold, heat and weather events causing reproductive breakdown unless prepared well. It would appear many birds without a strong pre-breeding program are destined for failure. It was interesting to note that due to evolution the breeding desire in budgerigars is so strong that they will attempt to breed and raise young despite knowing they physically can't, they will still try. It is in my opinion this is where runt chicks come from.

DIAGNOSIS of the cause of THIS runt chick:

Poor pre-breeding management of parents... The chick had Vitamin A deficiency causing poor immunity and infection by a common bacteria that a strong bird would easily fight off. The remaining chicks survived but are pet shop quality birds probably with good genetics. The parents still feed the chicks but as they are depleted not with the required enthusiasm.

### **In Summary:**

- The lack of systemic infection or a specific pathogen in all tested birds suggests that the problem is not due to an infectious disease spreading across nests.
- The combination of histopathological findings, such as vitamin A deficiency and intestinal bacterial overgrowth, points towards nutritional and environmental stress factors.
- The chronic stress observed in the adrenal glands and the dehydration seen in the kidneys of the runt chicks indicate poor parental vigour, leading to a failure to thrive in some offspring.

### **Diagnosis:**

The primary cause of runt chicks appears to be inadequate pre-breeding management, resulting in poor parental health, enthusiasm and insufficient nutritional reserves. The combination of stress, poor nutrition and inadequate environmental conditions during the breeding process leads to these developmental issues in some chicks.

### **Recommendations for Prevention and Management:**

#### **1 Breeding timing:**

Avoid breeding during extreme weather conditions. Breeding should be confined to spring and autumn to minimise stress from heat and cold. Extreme temperatures cause parental exhaustion and stress, leading to poor parenting and increased susceptibility to infections.

#### **2 Mite Control:**

Ensure nests and birds are free from mites, as infestation can reduce parents interest and vigour. Hens can't incubate well if preening for mites- both red mite and quill mites.

#### **3 Nutritional Management:**

- Focus on building reserves of critical vitamins (A, D3, E) during the non-breeding season. A Robust pre-breeding program is essential for preparing parents for the stresses of raising young.

- B vitamins are also critical, being water soluble birds can excrete excess easily.
- Provide a balanced diet rich in essential nutrients- researching what amino acids, vitamins and minerals seed lack is a great starting point. I would encourage breeders to then look at their vitamin bottles after and ensure they contain them.
- Monitor seed quality and provide a variety of seeds. It is my opinion oil coated seeds with additives help the birds that selectively feed and may miss the nutritional benefits of the entire seed blend on offer.

#### **4 Supplementation:**

Offer high quality, easily absorbable vitamins and minerals that match the needs of the birds at different stages of the breeding cycle.

Introduce new supplements and dietary changes gradually before the breeding season to ensure birds are accustomed to them.

By implementing these strategies, breeders can enhance the health and readiness of parent birds, thereby reducing the occurrence of runt chicks and ensuring more successful breeding outcomes.

Bird nutrition is key to this issue and perhaps a good future article.

#### **Happy Breeding!**

*A restaurateur faces a violation for adding horse meat to the chicken stew in his restaurant.*

*At the court he's asked why he did it and how much horse was in those stews. "For the money of course and I solemnly swear I always kept the ratio 50:50!"*

*While the infraction caused many unhappy customers, upon seeing the restaurateur's Honesty the Judge decides not to revoke his license. However, he in turn must always advertise that horse is part of the ingredients. With a sigh of relief, the restaurant owner pays the fine and walks out of the court house with his wife and a friend.*

*His friend asks him. "Did you really put horse meat or did you add anything else with the chicken?"*

*"Nope only horse meat and chicken."*

*"Now tell me the truth man, it was mostly horse meat, wasn't it?"*

*"Nope it was always 50:50... one horse per one chicken."*



Odin said there would be  
obedient women in all corners  
of the world



then he made the world round  
and laughed



# **Australian Wildlife Supplies**

Hi, we would just like to let you know that **Australian Wildlife Supplies** are now going to do a **Seed Run up North every 3 months** starting our first run on the **2nd, of September** to order people can email, send sms ph or order online, if you could please let all the members know would be appreciated.

Seed Prices are as follows

## **MIXES**

Finch Mix	\$40
Budgie Mix	\$42
Canary Mix	\$42
Sm Parrot	\$40

## **PLAIN SEEDS**

Red Panic	\$40
Yellow Panic	\$43
W/French Millet	\$38
Panorama Millet	\$38
Jap Millet	\$38
Canary Seed	\$46
G/Stripe Sunflower	\$44
Rape Seed	\$29
Hulled Oats	\$32

**Orders over 10bags are discounted by 10%**

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Kindest Regards  
Ray & Tereena Wust  
Australian Wildlife Supplies  
Ph. 0417749501

**CBS Inc.---Calendar of Events---2025**

Note that some Friday Night meetings have been changed to follow a Show or Club event.

12 Jan Sunday	ABS Inc Auction	Beenleigh Show Grounds Brisbane		
Jan 14 Tuesday	<b>Committee Meeting</b> Discuss Annual Show, Auction, Judge for YB Show & Breeders Show Zone Matters eg. carers etc. Incorporation review.	Evans residence	5.45 pm	
Feb 07	General Meeting  Judges Meeting to follow.	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : My Management Program- Feeding for success" Craig Sander.
March 07	General Meeting	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : Show Preparation – Russell Ogden
March 10 Monday	SHOW ENTRIES due by 8:00pm	Phone, Text or email Show Secretary		
March 15 Saturday	<b>57th ANNUAL SHOW</b>  <b>Judge:</b> TBC by Judges Panel  Selling class included.	Nth R'ton High School Hall.	Bench by 8:50am	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:00am
March 18 Tuesday	<b>Committee Meeting</b>  Discuss ZONE & ANBC Agendas. Auction details Club Trip	Evans residence	5:45pm	
April 04	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE:</u> Crop Feeding – Russell Ogden

April 05 Saturday	Wynnum Auction	Capalaba Showgrounds Smith Street		
April 07 CBS Inc. ANNUAL AUCTION ENTRIES DUE TODAY!!!!!!!				
Easter: <b>G o o d F r i d a y</b> April 18 – Monday April 21			April 25. ANZAC Day	
May General Meeting	May General Meeting to follow Young Bird Selection Show			
May 03 Saturday	<b>CBS INC YOUNG BIRD SELECTION SHOW.</b>  May General Meeting to follow this SHOW  Draw of CLUB REWARDS for credit of \$200 at CBS Auction	Mount Larcom Showgrounds  Day of Show entries close at 8:30 am.  CBS Members Only	Benching by 9:00am	Y/B Rung 24 & NF Rung 25  Judging commences by 9:10am  CBS Members Raffle drawn.
May 17 Saturday	<b>North Qld Budgerigar Zone Inc:</b> 1. Judges Panel & 2. Delegates Meeting.	Venue: MACKAY		3:00 pm Judges Meeting TBC 3:30 pm Zone Delegates Meeting TBC
18 May Sunday	<b>North Qld Budgerigar Zone Inc.</b>  <b>CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW.</b>	Venue: MACKAY		Benching by 8am Judging starts after benching
Friday May 23 Saturday 24 Sunday 25 Monday 26	<b>ANBC C'SHIP SHOW</b>	<b>North Queensland Budgerigar Zone</b>  <b>CAIRNS</b>	See ANBC Website for information and details, eg, Venue, times, etc.	
May 26 Monday	ANBC Delegates Meeting	<b>CAIRNS</b>		

No JUNE General Meeting				
Sat June 07	Pre-Auction Dinner	Venue: Rocky Sports Club. Wandal TBC	6.30 for 7.00pm	North R'ton Hall opened from 2-4pm for setup & birds to be dropped off.
June 08 Sunday	ANNUAL WINTER AUCTION	Nth R'ton High School Hall.	Bench by 7.45am	View 8.am Starts at 9:00am
Sun June 15 BC&CBS Annual Show Bundaberg. Sat June 21 SQBBA Auction, Brisbane				
July 04	General Meeting	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> :Breeding on Feather for Feather. Ian Schneider
July 15 Tuesday	<b>Committee Meeting</b>  Discuss AGM, Club Trip, October Breeders Show, Judge,	Venue: Evans residence	5:45pm	
<b>July 25-27. TBC</b>	<b>Visit to an Aviary TBC</b>  Attend Moreton Club Annual Auction	CLUB ANNUAL EVENT		
August 01 AGM & Monthly Meeting)	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</b>  General & Judges Meetings to follow	North Rockhampton High School (NRHS)	7.15pm	No <u>Table Show</u> or <u>FEATURE</u>
August 09 Newcastle Budgerigar Auction Saturday				
Sept 05	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : Breeding Lesser Varieties: Darrel Fisher & John Guinane

September 16 Tuesday	<b>Committee Meeting</b> Discuss Calendar of events, Venue booking. End of year event, Judge for Annual Show, donation for Meeting Room. Vendors for Auction 2026	Venue: Evans residence	5:45pm	
Oct 03	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : Simple Versus Complex, Hobby versus Chore: Kev OC
Oct 06 Monday	ENTRIES for Breeders Show due tonight 8:00pm		Phone, Text or email Show Secretary	
Oct 11 Saturday	<b>57<sup>th</sup> BREEDERS SHOW</b> Judge: TBC Selling class.	Nth R'ton High School Hall.	Benching by 8:50am	A/A & Y/B & NF  Judging commences 9:00am
Nov 07	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> :Bring an Idea – All members. <u>Q&amp; A</u>
Sunday Nov 23	CHRISTMAS BREAKUP,	TBA		
Dec 05	General Meeting	NRHS	7.15pm	<u>Table Show</u> A/A & Y/B & N/F  <u>FEATURE</u> : Medications for a healthy flock – Scott Eriksen
Dec 14	Committee Meeting If required to finalise Calendar 2026, etc.	Venue : Evans residencer		

**RINGS: 2025** Rings are 65 cents each for coded and un-coded rings, sold in lots of 25. Postage is extra (\$5.00).  
Contact Shayla Evans.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL  
2025

Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.



Forward to: Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc.

Secretary: P.O. Box 10165 Frenchville 4701

Or email to [cbudgerigars@gmail.com](mailto:cbudgerigars@gmail.com)

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Christian Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (all if partnership)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*This is vital to allow prompt delivery of information to all members.

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**I agree to keep my birds in a suitable environment and use appropriate husbandry practices.**

My current exhibition status is ..... (Open, Intermediate, Beginner.)

Applicant's Signature.....

Proposer's Name.....Proposer's Signature.....

Date.....

Please make cheques payable to: " Capricornia Budgerigar Society Inc."

**Membership Rates for 2024:**

Senior: \$40.00      Partnership: \$40.00      Family: \$40.00

Memberships due by January 01 each year. Membership after June 30 will be \$20 for remainder of current year.

CBS Inc WEBPAGE: **[www.capbuds.org](http://www.capbuds.org)**