



CENTRE
FOR AVIAN
REPTILES
& EXOTICS

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PO Box 1470, Southern Paarl, 7624, Western Cape

A90725

1. HISTORY

Green-winged Macaw was **confiscated and presented by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA** for veterinary assessment following concerns of neglect.

2. CLINICAL EXAMINATION FINDINGS

On physical examination, the patient presented with the following:

- **Severe feather loss** consistent with chronic feather destructive behaviour
- **Dropped left wing (LHS)**
- **Marked anxiety**, likely exacerbated by recent relocation; however, underlying poor living conditions cannot be excluded
- **Elongated rhinotheca (beak)**, suggestive of chronic husbandry deficiencies
- **Old mal-union fracture of the left humerus (wing)**, with reduced range of motion
- Evidence of **self-mutilation**, predominantly involving feathers
- **Prominent cervical air sac**, consistent with previous rupture
- **Proximal keel scab**, indicating chronic pressure or trauma
- **Feather destructive behaviour affecting secondary remiges**
- **Trauma to the retrices (tail feathers)**, most consistent with repeated contact injury, likely due to **inadequate cage size**
- No visible gender-specific characteristics; **no surgical sexing performed**

3. ANAESTHESIA AND DIAGNOSTICS

The patient was **anaesthetised** for the purpose of:

- Diagnostic radiography
- Blood sampling and analysis

4. RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

Radiographs were performed; however, **a lateral view of the left wing could not be achieved** due to **severely restricted range of motion** secondary to the existing fracture. (Attachment 8.1 A)

Radiographic interpretation:

- **Mal-union fracture of the left humerus**
- **Healed fracture of the left radius**
- **Calcified lesions of cardiovascular vessels**, prominent on the ventrodorsal (VD) view
- No additional radiographic abnormalities identified

5. LABORATORY RESULTS

Body Weight: 1186 g

Biochemistry: Within normal limits

- AST: 198
- Bile Acids: <35
- CK: 350
- Uric Acid: 73
- Glucose: 15.6
- Calcium: 2.51
- Phosphorus: 1.99
- Total Protein: 40
- Albumin: 25
- Globulin: 15
- Potassium: 4.2
- Sodium: 152
- Haemolysis: 1+

6. VETERINARY INTERPRETATION

The findings in this bird are **consistent with chronic, long-standing neglect**, rather than acute or recent injury. In particular:

- The **mal-union humeral fracture** indicates a significant previous injury that **did not receive appropriate veterinary care**
- Feather destructive behaviour appears **chronic and irreversible**, with destruction of feather follicles

- **Trauma to tail feathers** and **keel scabbing** are strongly suggestive of **prolonged inadequate housing**
- The elongated rhinotheca and cardiovascular calcifications are consistent with **suboptimal long-term husbandry**
- Birds instinctively mask illness; therefore, the severity of these findings indicates **prolonged suffering over an extended period**

7. CONCLUSION

Based on the physical examination, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory findings, it is my professional veterinary opinion that this bird has experienced **chronic neglect**, including:

- Failure to provide appropriate housing
- Failure to prevent injury
- Failure to obtain veterinary care for significant trauma
- Prolonged exposure to conditions resulting in physical and psychological suffering

These findings are **not compatible with acceptable standards of avian care**.

8. ATTACHMENTS

- Diagnostic radiographs
- Photographic documentation
- Laboratory results

A90724

1. HISTORY

Umbrella Cockatoo was **confiscated and presented by the Cape of Good Hope SPCA** for veterinary assessment following concerns regarding neglect and welfare.

2. PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

On physical examination, the following findings were noted:

- **Severe generalised feather loss**, consistent with chronic feather destructive behaviour
- Feather destructive behaviour assessed as **long-standing**, with evidence of **permanent damage to feather follicles**
- **Elongated rhinotheca (beak)**, suggestive of chronic husbandry deficiencies

- **Marked anxiety**, likely exacerbated by recent relocation; however, prior poor living conditions cannot be excluded
- **Linear scab over the right pectoral muscle**, consistent with repeated contact or pressure injury and suggestive of a **poor cage environment**

Other than the generalised feather destructive behaviour, **no additional overt abnormalities** were detected on physical examination.

3. BODY WEIGHT

- **Weight:** 476 g

4. DIAGNOSTIC TESTING

4.1 Laboratory Results

Biochemistry and Haematology:

- AST: 196
- Bile Acids: <35
- CK: 475
- Uric Acid: 156
- Glucose: 14.3
- Calcium: 2.57
- Phosphorus: 1.47
- Total Protein: 43
- Albumin: 27
- Globulin: 17
- Potassium: 4.8
- Sodium: 153
- Haemolysis: 2+

5. RADIOGRAPHIC FINDINGS

Radiographic examination revealed the following:

- **Prominent air sac borders**, consistent with **active airsacculitis**
- **Microhepatica**, suggestive of chronic systemic or metabolic disease
- **Osteoarthritis of both femoral–tibiotarsal joints**
- **Mild polyostotic hyperostosis**
- No other radiographic abnormalities identified (Attachment 8.1B)

6. VETERINARY INTERPRETATION

The clinical and diagnostic findings are **consistent with chronic, long-standing welfare compromise** rather than acute disease. In particular:

- Chronic feather destructive behaviour with **irreversible follicular damage** indicates prolonged psychological stress and/or inappropriate husbandry
- The elongated rhinotheca is commonly associated with **inadequate environmental enrichment, diet, or long-term confinement**
- The presence of **airsacculitis, microhepatica**, and **degenerative joint disease** indicates underlying chronic disease processes unlikely to have developed over a short period
- The linear pectoral scab is consistent with **repeated mechanical trauma**, most commonly associated with unsuitable or restrictive housing

Birds instinctively mask illness; therefore, the degree of pathology identified indicates **prolonged suffering prior to confiscation**.

7. CONCLUSION

Based on physical examination, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory findings, it is my professional veterinary opinion that this Umbrella Cockatoo has been subjected to **chronic neglect**, including:

- Inadequate housing conditions
- Failure to prevent physical injury
- Failure to provide appropriate long-term veterinary and husbandry care

These findings are **not compatible with acceptable standards of avian welfare**.

8. ATTACHMENTS

- Diagnostic radiographs

Attachment 8.1A

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:06:34
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



Director: Dr. JLC DE BEER BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)
Practice Number: FC09/10160

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:08:08
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



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Practice Number: FC09/10160

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:08:44
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



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Practice Number: FC09/10160

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:09:22
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa

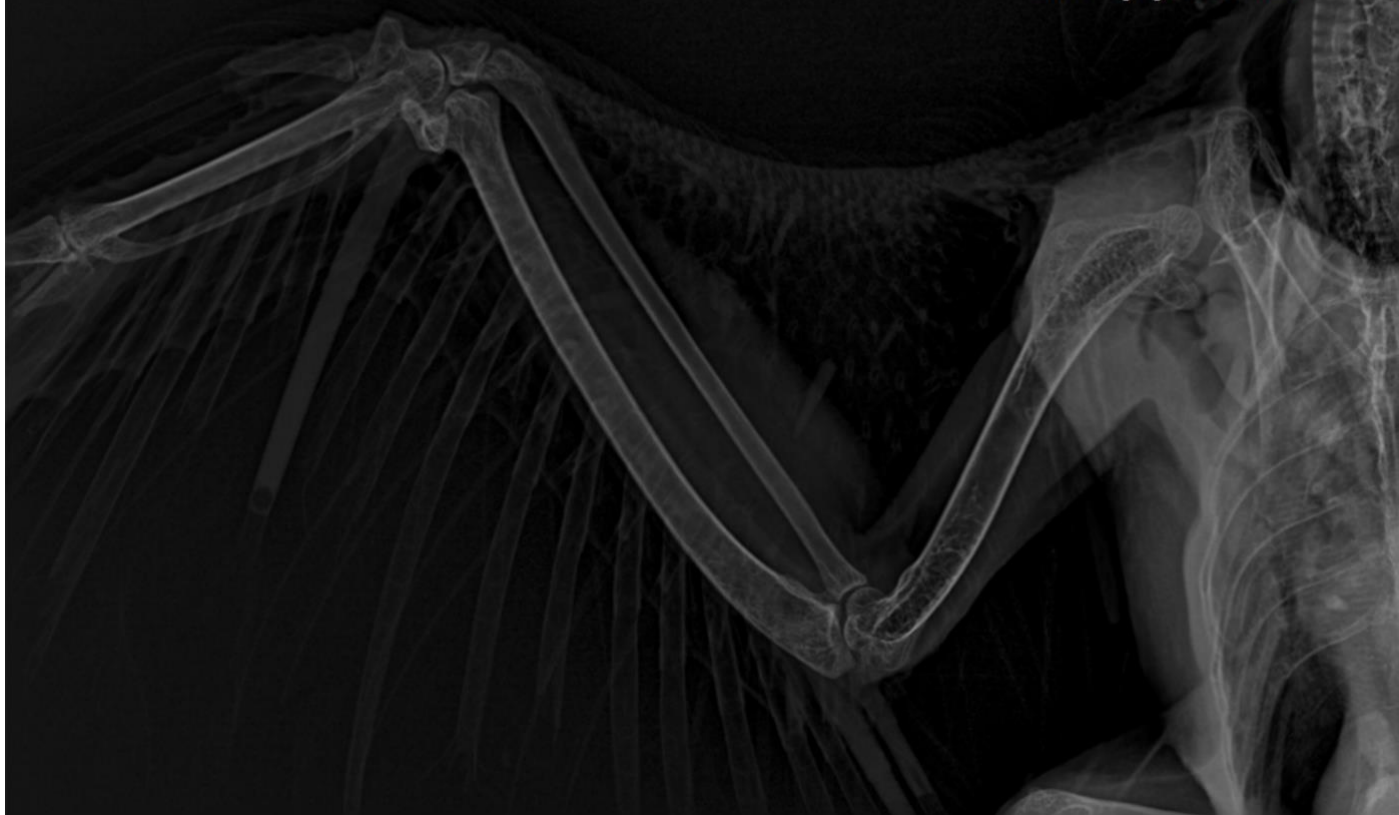


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Practice Number: FC09/10160



Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:10:40
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:11:15
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



Director: Dr. JLC DE BEER BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)
Practice Number: FC09/10160



Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90725 Macaw
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:13:18
R Abdomen Lateral
IMV Imaging South Africa

Attatchment 8.1 B

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90724 Cockatoo
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:28:36
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa

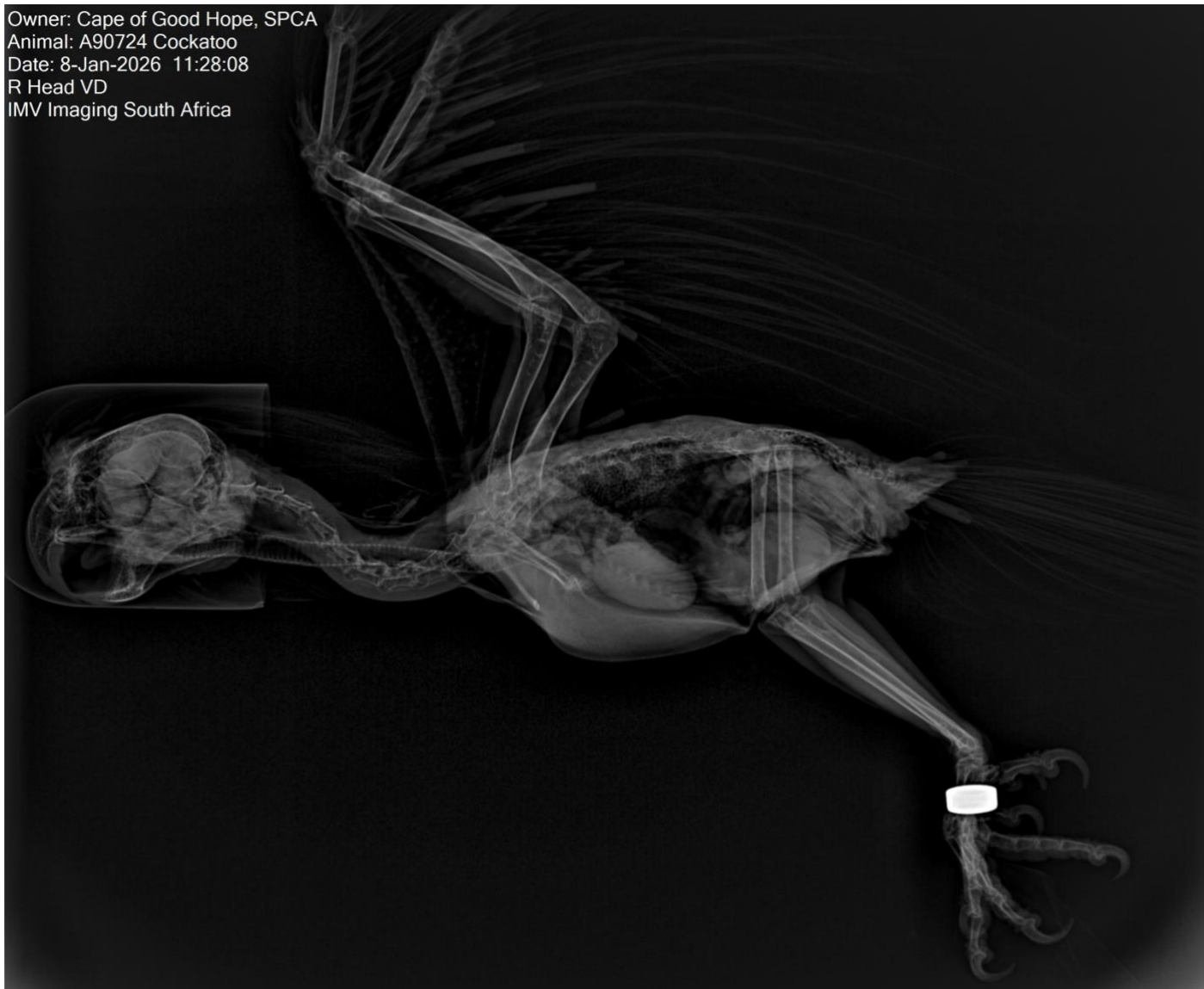


Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90724 Cockatoo
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:27:19
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



Director: Dr. JLC DE BEER BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)
Practice Number: FC09/10160

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90724 Cockatoo
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:28:08
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



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Practice Number: FC09/10160

Owner: Cape of Good Hope, SPCA
Animal: A90724 Cockatoo
Date: 8-Jan-2026 11:29:21
R Head VD
IMV Imaging South Africa



Director: Dr. JLC DE BEER BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)
Practice Number: FC09/10160

- Photographic documentation





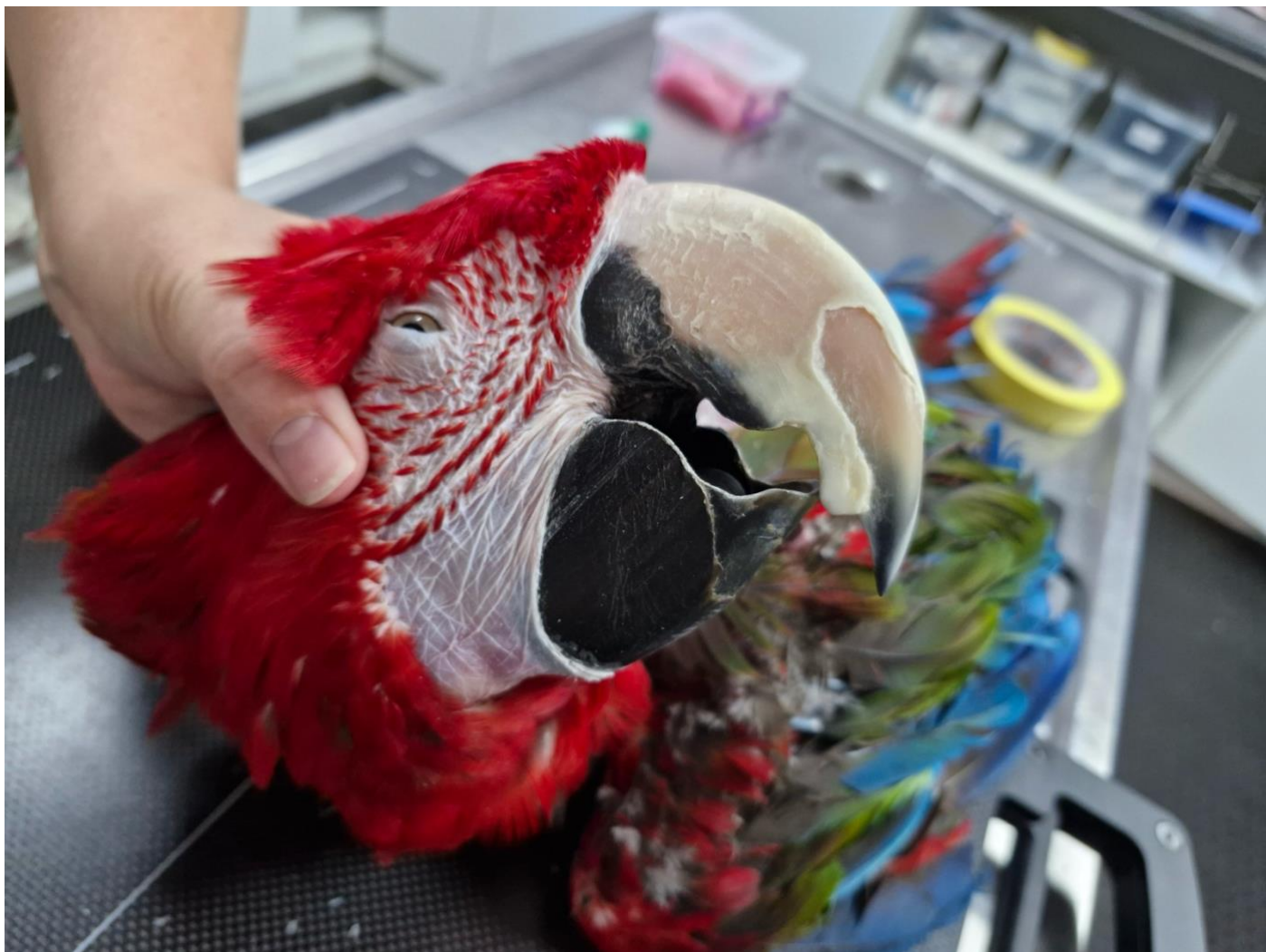
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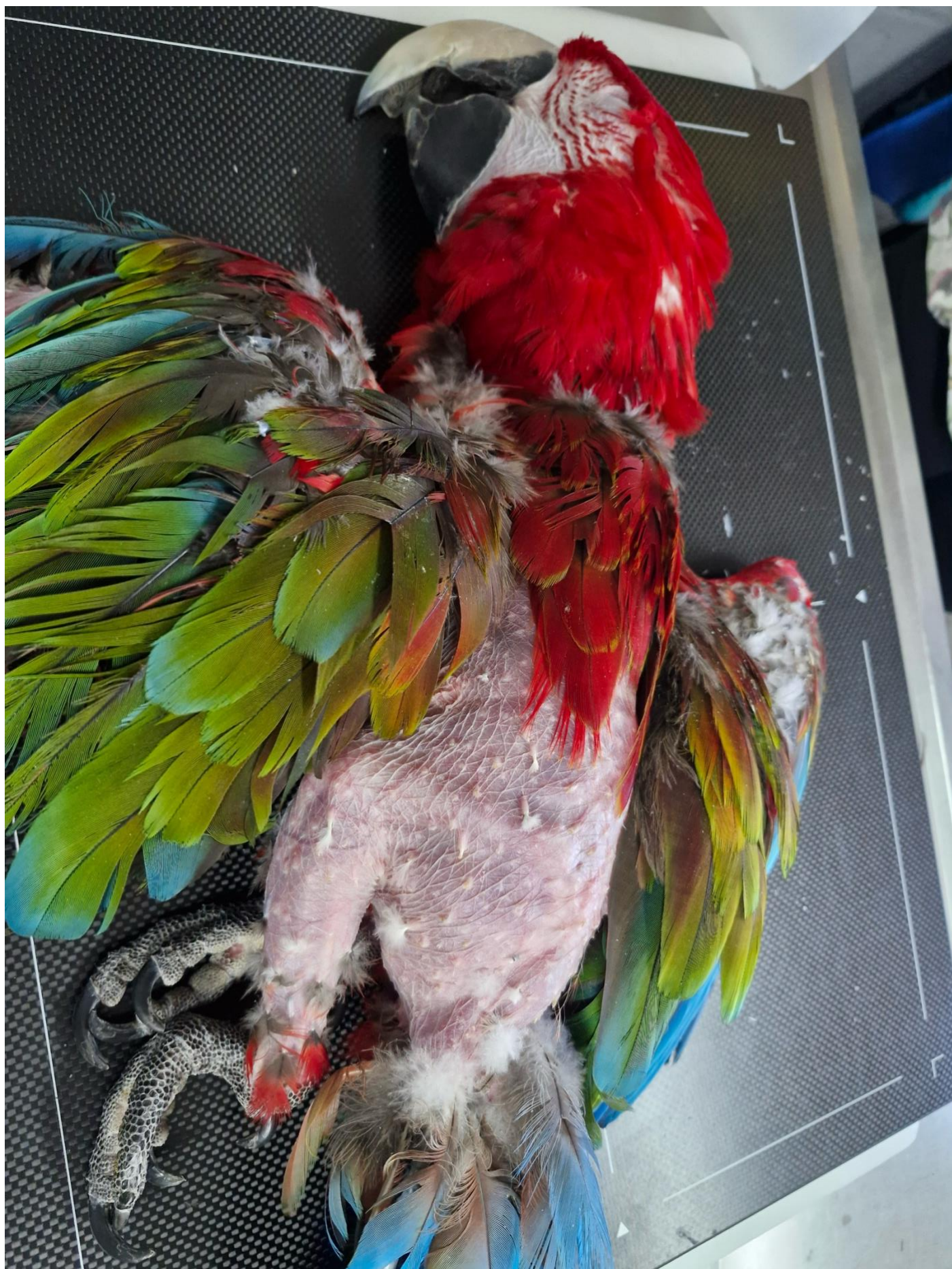
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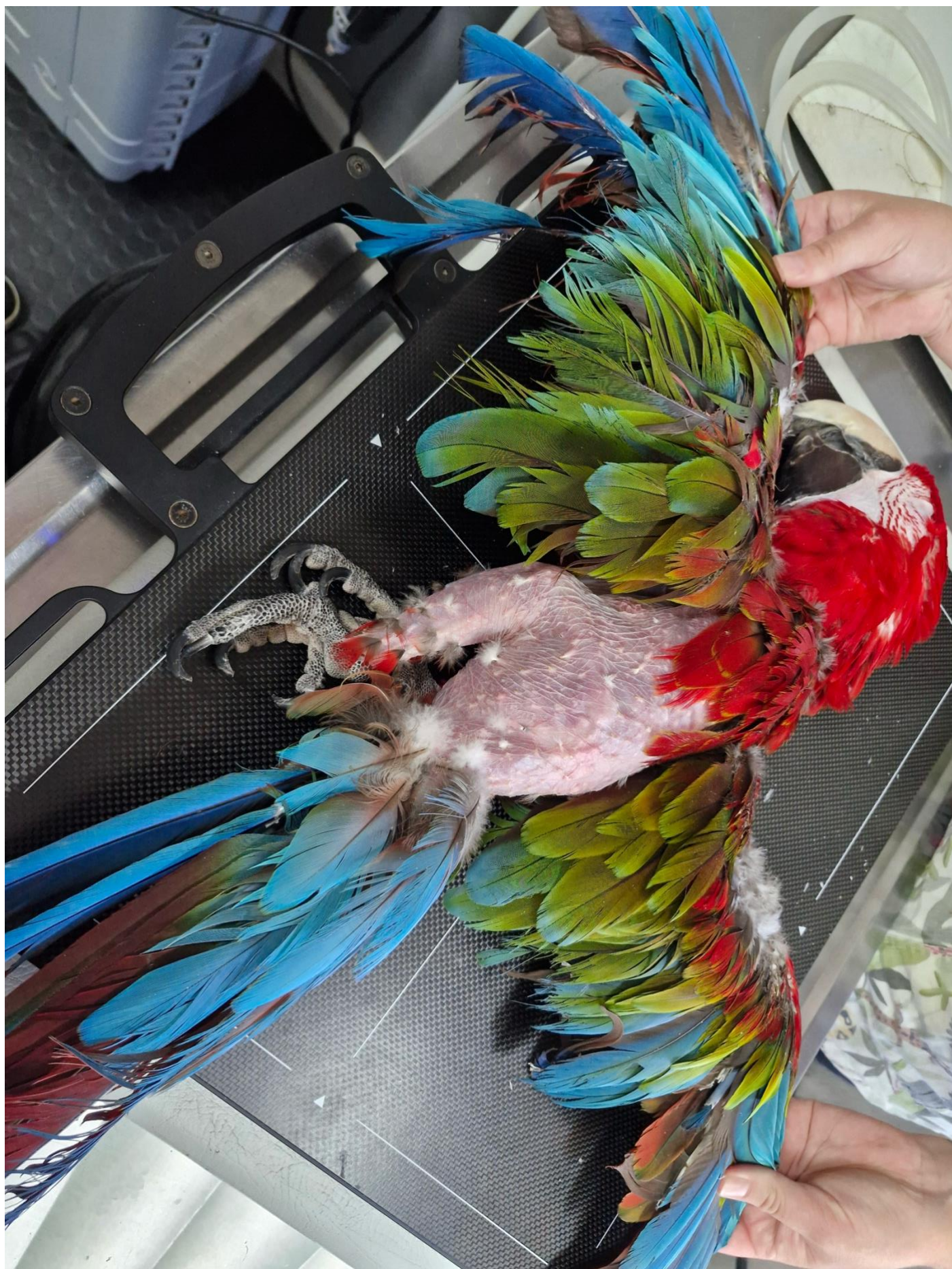
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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by 'LC' and a small flourish.

Dr JLC de Beer BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS (Avian Health)
D19/16344