



Bixley K., Green-wing Macaw
1991 to December 2010

"Bixley was 19 years old when he passed away and we had him since he was a baby. We had him in our wedding pictures and had an ice sculpture made of him for our wedding reception. We took him camping every weekend in the summer, he was in two parades, did many presentations with him at schools, churches, U of A, Pet Expo, club meetings, etc. We included him in every part of our life where possible; we miss him dearly.

We finally put him in his casket lined with family pictures and a velvet sash wrapped around his body. It was so hard to see him as I had not seen him since he passed away. My husband made a beautiful walnut casket and we will take him out to our lake lot to bury him out there; he LOVED camping." KimBerley K.

Bixley died of Proventricular Dilatation Disease (PDD) in early December, which was confirmed by a necropsy. Three weeks prior he showed signs of illness with fluffed feathers and morning vomiting. Bixley was diagnosed as having a bacterial infection and placed on Baytril, an antibiotic. He seemed to perk up, however his weight began to drop by 40 grams a day and two days before he died he was passing undigested seed and then stopped eating. During the three week period Bixley made many trips to the veterinarian, it was on his final trip for x-rays that he died in the clinic with his guardian at the front desk.

Previously unaware of PDD and Bornavirus his guardian was directed to The Calgary Parrot Club's website through a Google search. The 2010 presentation by Dr. Kerry Korber had been posted to the Club's website.

"I think that it is in the best interest of our northern Alberta Club to bring this disease to light. I have volunteered to do a presentation on it at the next Parrot Club meeting (hopefully I can make it through without breaking down). It's time our Club became

familiar with this disease and to give it some serious consideration when dealing with our birds," KimBerley shared.

Brixley has flown over Rainbow Bridge, far to young. However his passing will not be in vain as his guardian is stepping forward to educate others on Bornavirus and PDD. ~

Written by Gloria Fantin