

WORMING BIRDS WITH A CROP NEEDLE

By Dennis Lomman

Several members have recently asked me about administering the ASSA Wormer with a crop needle.

This is certainly possible and is ideal in situations where you only want to worm a single bird which you suspect may be carrying worms, or to worm a new acquisition. Several members have also indicated that they have always wormed their parrots with a crop needle and would like to continue doing so using the ASSA Wormer.

The current directions for using the ASSA Wormer advise that as well as mixing it in the drinking water, the Wormer can also be applied directly to the beak or onto the back of the neck at the rate of one drop per 100gm of body weight. However, I find that using a crop needle is easier than trying to hold a bird still while you try to place a drop into its beak or onto the skin at the back of its neck.

There is sufficient safety margin with this Wormer that one drop can be given directly to Neophemas and other birds of similar size. I have tried this myself and my Scarlets are still alive and well. I have also successfully used two drops with my Princess and Rosellas. Larger parrots such as the King Parrot would require three drops, and so on.

When using a crop needle to administer the ASSA Wormer the important point to remember is that **one drop is equivalent to 0.05ml**. This is a very small amount of Wormer to try and measure and administer using a syringe, particularly if you are worming more than one bird at a time, and it is therefore best to also use a small amount of water in order to provide a practical volume which can be easily measured and administered.

However, if you have steady hands then there is no reason why you should not simply give 0.05ml of the Wormer directly to Neophemas by crop needle (or two drops to Princess Parrots, *etc, etc*).

Alternatively, you could draw up 0.05ml of ASSA Wormer into a syringe and then draw up 0.15ml of water, giving a total volume of 0.20ml, to give to a single Neophema. For a single Princess Parrot, draw up 0.10ml of Wormer and 0.10ml of water. The volume of water is not critical as long as it is a small amount, for example you could use 0.20ml or 0.25ml for Neophemas and Princess Parrots.

I recently used this method to worm all of my parrots. Using a medicine measuring glass, I mixed up enough Wormer to do ten birds at a time. For the Neophemas this required 0.50ml of Wormer well mixed with 1.50ml of water in the measuring glass giving a total volume of 2.00ml (10 birds @ 0.20ml each). The shape of the medicine measuring glass is ideal for drawing up the mixture into a syringe. For the Princess Parrots and Rosellas, I mixed 1.00ml of Wormer with 1.00ml of water giving a total volume of 2.00ml (10 birds @ 0.20ml each).

If anyone has any further queries regarding this technique, I would be more than pleased to try and answer them.