

AAV Member Spotlight: Stephen Fronfield, BS, DVM, DABVP

It is with great pleasure that we present the AAV newsletter: Member Spotlight. This special feature showcases the association's most valuable asset—our members—by highlighting our diverse backgrounds, professional activities, experience, and geographic locations.

If you would like to be featured in this section, or would like to suggest a fellow member to profile, please complete the [Member Spotlight Questionnaire](#) today.

What was the first bird job you ever had?

My first "job" was a non-paid position at the Southeast Raptor Rehab Center at Auburn. My first job with financial compensation was immediately after vet school. I worked for Fred Soifer, DVM, one of AAV's founding members and former president of AAV.

Most memorable AAV experience or contribution

I took Michael Taylor's avian endoscopy wet lab early in my veterinary career. His passion and sense of humor combined to make this learning experience infinitely valuable (and memorable) in understanding avian anatomy.

What is your favorite avian species and why?

The Pacific Parrotlet is currently my favorite species. It never ceases to amaze me how much personality can be packed into such a tiny bird.

What was the last interesting avian medical or surgical issue you dealt with in your work?

I've been treating a Moluccan cockatoo that was relinquished to a sanctuary due to its self mutilating activity. We have worked the case up with blood work, radiographs, cultures and biopsies. We have been using various treatment modalities to address the injuries and the potential causes of the self mutilation. One of the suture materials used for closure of a large chest wound was a synthetic monofilament with very small "barbs" along the suture. These "barbs" hold tension at each point the suture passes through the tissue thus distributing tension along the entire suture line. The closure is also knotless, which is more comfortable and gives the bird less to chew upon. This suture discovery has benefited our other surgical patients, especially those with larger wounds or areas that will be under tension. Although we have not solved all this bird's problems yet, we are hopeful to have him healed and in a home in the not too distant future.

Best benefits of AAV membership?

The best benefit of AAV varies depending on the day. Sometimes the Journal is the best benefit, like when I read something that is applicable to my practice. Sometimes member lookup is the best benefit, especially when I'm looking for a member in another city so a client can find someone that can see their pet bird. Sometimes the AAV conference is the best benefit so I can learn the latest information on avian medicine and surgery. Maybe the best of the best benefits is, as others have stated, meeting and talking to fellow AAV members that share a passion for our avian species. A wealth of knowledge resides in our membership.

If you had not chosen your present career, what would you be doing?

My backup plan was Chemical Engineering, however I'm not sure if that is what I'd be doing if I wasn't a veterinarian. I would most likely be in the mental health profession. (I feel like I'm in that field as a veterinarian.)

What was your favorite class or activity in vet school/vet tech school/college?

My favorite class in vet school was radiology which complimented my favorite activity of rehabilitating sick or injured raptors.



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