

AAV Member Spotlight: Darius Starks, DVM

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 very first experience working with birds involved me handrearing and weaning parrots at a local pet store. Watching the birds grow and develop was not only challenging, but extremely rewarding!

What is your favorite avian species and why?

Although I have had limited opportunities to work with kookaburras, they are one of my favorite species. Their call is not only entertaining but memorable!

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

One of my most recent interesting cases was cutaneous aspergillosis on the beak of a harlequin macaw. It was challenging to manage and an excellent learning experience.

Best benefits of AAV membership?

Not only does being a member of AAV provide a network of support for veterinarians, it allows access to current topics in avian medicine and surgery. Being a member keeps me abreast.

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

If veterinary medicine was not my chosen career pathway, I would have loved to pursue a career as a pastry chef. I can only imagine how amazing it would be to have not only the ability to create delicious desserts, but to literally enjoy the fruits of your labor!

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

Clinical rotations were my favorite part of vet school. It allowed me to start to put all of the information that was previously learned during lectures into action. I was able to start to appreciate and value all of my professors teachings.

Describe an anecdote that would be of interest to your colleagues

Always remember: 'You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar.'



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