

## AAV Member Spotlight: Krista Keller, DVM, Dipl ACZM

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.

### Most memorable AAV experience or contribution.

I was fortunate enough to be prompted by a mentor to submit a manuscript that I wrote as a student for the student manuscript competition and won the award in 2010! It was my first time speaking at a national conference and everyone that was there, whether in the crowd or otherwise was extremely welcoming. Being a student at a conference can be overwhelming and speaking can be down right scary, but the entire AAV group was exceptional and made me want to work with zoological companion species, including birds, that much more.

### What is your favorite avian species and why?

Hands down, the Southern Ground Hornbill is the most intriguing avian species! If you have never gotten up close and personal, let me tell you that they have the most magnificent eyelashes of any animal. I first met a ground hornbill during a conservation medicine course in South Africa and knew that this was a special species to me. Later, during my residency I was fortunate enough to work with the species performing preventative care at the Sacramento Zoo. The only downfall of this being my favorite avian species is that as a private practitioner I hardly have a chance to work with them!

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

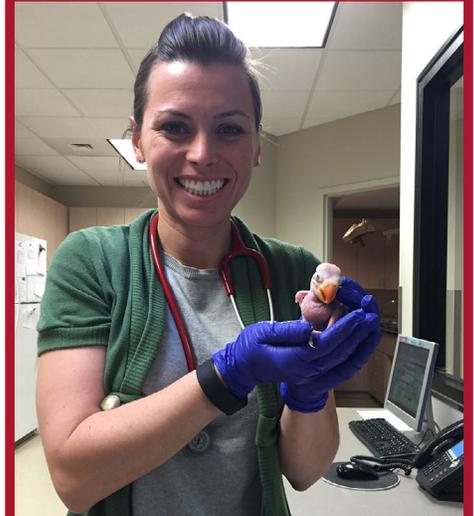
I have recently been working with a raptor education group that has about 30 birds ranging from hawks, eagles, owls and even an osprey. It has been excellent working with this group and building their flock preventative health program, developing SOPs for feeding and sanitation and getting to work with such a variety of species all at once.

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

Let's be honest, had we all not gone down this career path, we would be doing something else and wishing we had pursued our dreams!

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

Anatomy may be a basic class in vet school; it is one of the first things that you have to master prior to building upon that knowledge with more applicational courses, however, it is still my favorite. I enjoyed being able to discover the different anatomical locations, organs, vessels, etc first hand. To this day I find myself interested about comparative anatomy and drawn to osteology and necropsy as ways to express this interest.



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