Happy New Year everyone!

Hope you are all enjoying wringing out 2017 and ringing in 2018. A lot of exciting new things are happening at the AAV as well. Our website is going through a major redesign and soon will become much more visually appealing and user-friendly. Many features of our website are improving and expanding. We are in the process of developing more resources for bird owners and the general public about birds and bird care. The find-a-vet tool will contain a number of new features to become a much more powerful and useful tool. Our traditional monthly newsletter will be replaced with periodic short email blasts tied to blogs, news updates, committee updates, and other items. The AAV Education Committee is continuing to work tirelessly on uploading additional educational content to the AAV Education Portal, check it out! Other new AAV benefits getting rolled out this year include grants for educational projects for student chapters.

The AAV has been proactive with important issues affecting wildlife and conservation that may impact our members, and we are partnering with other groups to make our voices even more effective. The AAV Executive Board voted for active non-support of H.R. 4239, otherwise known as the SECURE American Energy Act, which was approved by the US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources in November 2017. This bill removes liability to industries for the incidental or accidental “take” of bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918. If this bill passes in Congress, energy companies and other industries may be able to develop and build energy projects with impunity and with little regard to the accidental death and injury to protected birds. The AAV opposes H.R. 4239. A draft letter to your House Representative, as well as the AAV policy statement, one-pager, and links to petitions and other resources are available on our website. If avian conservation is important to you, I urge you to take action on this bill.

As you can see, the AAV is focused on fulfilling its mission to advance and promote avian medicine and conservation. The AAV is always thinking of fresh new ways to provide you, the members, with benefits and services that are useful to you in your daily practice. Your membership dues are put to work for these tasks and activities. We can’t do all of this without you. If you haven’t yet renewed your membership, don’t delay. Renew today!

Yours,

Lauren Powers
Professional Growth

- **Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery** – All members receive quarterly electronic issues of our international scientific journal and access to archived issues
- **AAV Conference Proceedings** – Digital library (1988-present) provides industry-leading continuing education
- **Discounts** – All members receive discounted conference registration fees and discounts on select Wiley-Blackwell books and reference works
- **E-Learning Portal** – Access multimedia content, including webinars, podcasts, and slideshow presentations
- **Golden Egg: Avian Medicine Topics** – Online resources on specific avian medicine topics
- **Career Opportunities** – AAV has teamed with the Veterinary Career Network (VCN) to offer hundreds of nationwide veterinary job listings, career development services, and access to more than 1,000 active resumes
- **Academic Opportunities** – Avian-specific internship/externship/residency listings

Networking

- **Members-only Facebook Group** – Discuss cases and share resources with colleagues
- **Annual Conference** – Network with colleagues while you expand your knowledge
- **Membership Directory** – Connect with colleagues
- **Volunteer opportunities** – Get involved and get to know your colleagues while giving back to your Association
- **Online Community Forums** – General Topics, Technicians, Students, and Aviculture

Practice Building Tools

- **Find-a-Vet Listing** – Choose to be listed in our public directory to reach new clients
- **Bird Friendly Practice Toolbox** – A collection of tools to help you start your avian practice or expand to offer services to avian clients
- **Client Education Handouts** – Handouts on 9 different topics (more coming soon!), avian species digital brochures series (13 titles), plus an avian first aid brochure

Stay Informed

- **Facebook, Twitter and Instagram** – A great way to share information about AAV with clients and other veterinary professionals
- **Monthly AAV Newsletter** – To update you on all industry and Association-related news
- **Community Blogs** – From your AAV President and Conservation Committee

Making a Difference

- The **AAV Companion Bird and Wild Bird Health Research Funds** have provided over half a million dollars to avian research projects since 1982
- AAV offers **scholarship opportunities** for international avian veterinarians, veterinary students, and house officers
- AAV membership communicates your commitment to avian health, welfare and conservation to both colleagues and clients

Membership Renewal for 2018 is Now Open!
Click here for quick, easy and secure online renewal.

Renew Now at AAV.org

Questions?? Contact the Central Office at office@aaav.org or 720-458-4111 x1
In March of 2018, bird and nature lovers will celebrate the 100-year anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (MBTA). This law has protected our nation's birds through a century of human population expansion and remarkable economic growth. The MBTA currently protects over 1,000 bird species in the United States.

Unfortunately, the MBTA, our nation's cornerstone bird conservation law, is under attack. In November of 2017, the House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources approved H.R. 4239, an energy act.* This act would remove liability for the incidental or accidental "take" of bird species protected under the MBTA. This means that energy companies and other industries would no longer be held responsible for bird deaths and injuries resulting from their activities.

HOW THE MBTA WORKS TO PROTECT BIRD POPULATIONS

- The MBTA provides criminal sanctions for the unpermitted "take" of a protected bird species, by any means or manner, regardless of fault.
- Under this law, U.S. prosecutors can force companies, including oil and gas, mining, electricity, timber, and chemical companies, to be held accountable for incidental deaths and injuries of birds protected by the MBTA.
- Over the past decade, energy companies have been fined in excess of $114 million, in part due to prosecution for violations of the MBTA.

DEADLY EFFECTS OF ENERGY PRODUCTION ON BIRDS

- **POWER LINES and COMMUNICATION TOWERS** – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) estimates that collisions with electric utility lines kill upwards of 50 million birds a year, with an additional 6.5 million deaths from collisions with communication towers.
- **WIND TURBINES** – The USFWS estimates that upwards of 300,000 birds are killed annually from impacts with wind turbines at wind farms.
- **FOSSIL FUELS** – Migratory bird deaths frequently result from entrapment in hydrofracturing and oil waste pits, oil sands tailings ponds, and power plant waste ponds.

IMPECTIONS OF H.R. 4239

- If H.R. 4239 is passed in Congress, energy companies will be able to develop and build energy projects with impunity and with no regard to the incidental killing of protected birds.
- This will result in more birds, perhaps millions more, dying from accidental causes directly associated with energy projects.

AAV members and their colleagues work with federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and private entities to treat and care for avian patients affected by oil spills, power line impacts, and other injuries related to energy projects. H.R. 4239 would be a dangerous step backward in bird conservation.

The AAV opposes H.R. 4239 because it removes liability of energy companies and other industries for the incidental death and injury of protected birds and opens the door to development of energy projects that ignore the potential harm to wild birds.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Join the AAV and other organizations that oppose H.R. 4239.

- **Contact your House Representative and ask them to oppose H.R. 4239.**
  - https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative
- **Send the draft letter, adding your own personal statement, to your House Representative.**
  - The AAV draft letter is available here: http://www.aav.org/stophr4239
- **Distribute and display this flyer in your clinic, on your website, or post to your social media outlets.**
- **Complete an online petition against H.R. 4239.**
  - American Bird Conservancy petition: https://abcbirds.org/action/petition-mbta
  - National Audubon Society petition: http://www.audubon.org/takeaction and click "Stop the Bird-Killer Amendment"

* Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act, or SECURE American Energy Act
Ring in the New Year with Your Proposal Submission!

Monday, January 22 is the final day to submit your proposal for ExoticsCon 2018! If you have recently completed a research study, developed a new surgical technique, implemented practice changes to streamline efficiencies, or have any additional innovative clinical, scientific or educational knowledge to share, then we want your submission.

Submission Categories:
- Scientific
- Clinical
- Professional Development

Session Types:
- Lecture (15 minute)
- Master Class (1-hour)
- Master Class (2-hour)
- Hands-On Workshop (2-hour)
- Hands-On Workshop (4-hour)
- Hands-On Workshop (8-hour)
- Poster
- Roundtable

Submission Deadline: Monday, January 22, 2018

AAV Companion Bird Health Research Fund

Pre-proposals for research projects addressing clinical aspects of companion bird health, are now being accepted for consideration for funding by the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV). Areas of interest include but are not limited to diagnostic testing, disease treatment, drug pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, and practice management. Grants are limited to $10,000.00 US for individual projects.

AAV Wild Bird Health Research Fund

Pre-proposals for research projects addressing wild bird health are now being accepted for consideration for funding by the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV). Projects of interest include but are not limited to epidemiology of disease in wild populations, ecotoxicology, diagnostic testing and treatment of wild birds, and conservation medicine. Grants are limited to $5,000.00 US for individual projects.

Completed pre-proposals (one page form only) must be received by February 1, 2018.

Final proposals, upon invitation only, based on the evaluation of the pre-proposal, must be received by May 1. Grants will be announced at the annual meeting (ExoticsCon) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, September 22-27, 2018. A maximum 250 word description of the project will also be required for publication in association development literature. This summary should be in lay terms.
In March of 2018, bird and nature lovers in North America will celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This law has protected birds through a century of human population expansion and remarkable economic growth. In combination with the Endangered Species Act, this law has helped prevent or reverse the decline of many species native to North America.

Unfortunately, the MBTA, the United States’ cornerstone bird conservation law, is under attack. A last-minute amendment added to the “SECURE American Energy Act” HR 4239 in late 2017 would end any enforcement of incidental “take” of bird species protected under the MBTA. This means that energy companies and other industries would no longer be held responsible in any way for bird deaths resulting from their activities.

The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV), consistent with its mission to contribute to the conservation of birds, is actively opposing HR 4239 because it removes the ability to enforce violations of the MBTA in the United States. This proposal, which will be debated as early as January 2018, would be a dangerous step backward in bird conservation. Like AAV, many other North American bird conservation organizations including National Audubon, American Birding Association, and the American Bird Conservancy, are encouraging their members to contact their US representatives to urge them to vote NO to this bill in its current form. See: http://www.aav.org/page/stophr4239 for more information or to join AAV in our opposition to this irresponsible bill.

Let’s Discuss this Article
Respond to this article by posting your comments and questions on the “Conservation Note” Blog. You can also “subscribe” to the blog to receive instant updates when new articles are posted.
Visit the Blog Now ➤
What does the Membership Committee do?

The AAV Membership Committee works to promote the benefits of AAV membership, the growth of AAV membership numbers, as well as any activities that support a sense of community among AAV members. Towards that end, Committee activities are extremely diverse, ranging from renewal/membership drives to promotion of the AAV Member Spotlight.

State or Regional Representative Pilot Program

The goal of this program is to promote member networking in a more personalized fashion by finding out what AAV members are doing (more than once a year at the annual conference!) and disseminating info about AAV to members in a different way.

This project will begin as a pilot program so we can assess its usefulness for members and “work out the kinks” before expanding the project nationally and even internationally.

Rich Nye has agreed to participate in this pilot program. Since he is in Illinois, we will begin with the Midwestern region of the United States.

How can you get involved?

- Are you in the Midwestern United States? Contact us to participate in our regional representative pilot program.
- Help AAV Members Stay Connected: The Membership Committee is currently seeking a liaison to help us stay connected with the AAV International Committee. Are you interested in issues and projects that affect international members? Contact Us
- Are you interested in promoting the growth of AAV and supporting new avian veterinarians? Join our Student Member Subcommittee.
- Check out the AAV members-only Facebook page. Share an interesting or challenging case with colleagues, and encourage other members to do so as well.
- “Toot” your own horn or encourage a colleague to do so! Complete the Member Spotlight questionnaire or create a BRIEF video or photo diary that showcases your experiences as an avian veterinarian.
- Are you a veterinary technician or veterinary nurse? AAV Members are diverse and our Committee membership should be as well! The Membership Committee is seeking more technician members to balance and expand Committee views and interests.

About the Membership Committee

The Membership Committee is chaired by Christal Pollock, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice), a Lafeber Company Veterinary Consultant, who splits her time between Philadelphia, Mississippi and Cleveland, Ohio. Other Membership Committee members hail from all across North America, Latin America, and the Mideast.

We would love for you to join us! Contact us at membership@aav.org.
AAV Member Spotlight: Lisa Carr, BVetMed

What was the first bird job you ever had?
I was first exposed to companion birds working as a vet tech after graduating with my undergraduate degree. At first, they terrified me but as I got to know them and understand them, my appreciation and respect developed.

What is your favorite avian species and why?
The secretary bird: a demure looking lady (they all look like girls to me) who packs a powerful punch!

What was the last interesting avian medical or surgical issue you dealt with in your work?
We recently diagnosed a gastric mass in a budgie by ultrasound. The majority of our small bird clients love their birds but when it comes down to working them up, the “I would if this was my dog” excuse comes out. I am grateful for those clients that are not limited by the size of their bird and do what they can for them to help them feel better. Unfortunately, this budgie died shortly after his diagnosis, but we could give his owner the peace of mind that she was doing everything she could for him.

Best benefits of AAV membership?
There are so many good things about AAV. The continuing education is top notch and I always come away feeling more confident about what I already know and pick up something that is clinically relevant which I can take home and put into practice right away.

If you had not chosen your present career, what would you be doing?
I would be working with animals in some capacity no matter what career path I chose. Some have said, though I admit to nothing, that a crazy cat lady resides in me so it’s possible that I would have started a circus with trick-trained cats while riding horses and growing flowers on the side.

What was your favorite class or activity in vet school/vet tech school/college?
I’m a glutton for punishment because I love anesthesia and critical care, especially at the same time. The more complicated the case the more fun it was! The same is true now. It’s great when you can take that completely unstable, mostly dead bird and get them back home.

Submit Your Profile for the Member Spotlight Today
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.

Lisa Carr, BVetMed
Practice Owner/Veterinarian
Maryland Avian and Exotics Veterinary Care
Rockville, Maryland, USA
AAV Member Since 2000

Dr. Lisa Carr pictured with two local children while on a mission trip in Ethiopia. Dr. Carr helped develop an incubator program (business model) to support entrepreneurs and small businesses in villages. She went to advise about chicken production which was the industry they were using as a test model.

Favorite avian species: the secretary bird
AAV Membership Offers Great Benefits for Technicians in 2018

Welcome 2018! For many of us, the new year is a clean slate and a fresh start in writing our next chapter. We will make New Year’s resolutions and set goals; some we will see through, others we will abandon. As compassionate veterinary technicians we are always striving for professional advancement, and improved patient care. Though AAV can’t directly help with any weight loss goals, or your commitment to healthy eating in 2018, we can help you achieve professional advancement, meet new colleagues and learn new skills through membership. Whether you are looking to learn an advanced skill, collaborate with colleagues, have an impact on avian health and welfare or just buy a new text book (who doesn’t like a new text?) membership with the AAV can help with your New Year’s goals.

Your AAV technician membership provides many resources: discounts on text books, discount on your conference registration and connection to our diverse group of members both nationally and internationally. There are many online features geared for technicians such as AAV’s education portal where video lectures can be viewed at a members’ convenience, or the technician forum where discussions about hot topics take place. Technicians are invited to participate on the new Members Only Facebook Group as well. AAV is constantly improving resources for technicians so stay tuned at aav.org!

As a valued AAV member, we would encourage you to become more involved in your organization by joining a committee (or two!). The Technician Committee would love to have you help further establish our presence within the AAV and develop technician focused resources. The AAV has many other committees that can utilize special skills and talents; we would be happy to help you find your niche. If you have questions or are interested in joining the Technician committee or others, please contact me, the Technician Committee Chair at jill.murray@okstate.edu. Happy New Year! Here’s to a great 2018 with lots of learning and maybe a new text book or two!

Jill Murray, RVT, RLATG, VTS (Exotic Companion Animals)
Technician Committee Chair

New 1-Hour Master Class Available on AAV Online Education Portal

Handling Avian Respiratory Emergencies

Presented by: Susan E. Orosz, PhD, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian), Dipl ECZM (Avian), and Marla Lichtenberger, DVM, Dipl ACVECC

Acute respiratory distress is usually a life-threatening emergency. In the emergency room, observation of the patient’s breathing pattern, respiratory sounds and a brief physical exam are the most important tools for diagnosis and treatment of respiratory distress. Anatomic and physiologic understanding of the 5 different areas of the respiratory system are important in understanding the diagnosis and treatment protocols for each area.
AAV Needs Your Help to Spread the Word about the Great Avian Educational Resources Available with AAV Membership

Do you give presentations about avian medicine? Many veterinarians are unaware of the great things AAV has to offer. They may not realize how easy it would be to provide a higher level of care to avian clients in their practice. Help us spread the word about AAV’s many online education resources, avian species printables, and networking opportunities. Together, we can improve the quality of care for avian patients by providing much needed resources to more veterinary professionals.

Download AAV PowerPoint Slides

AAV Members can now download and insert AAV PowerPoint slides into your presentations to help educate others about the great value of being an AAV member.

Coming soon: AAV is also preparing a one-page informational handout about AAV membership that you will be able to download, print and distribute at conferences and events. Watch for details next month!

Wiley Book Discounts

Did you know AAV members receive a 25% discount on select veterinary titles from Wiley.com? Click the link below to access your discount code!
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**VMX: Veterinary Meeting & Expo (formerly NAVC Conference)**
- Date: February 3-7, 2018
- Location: Orlando, Florida
- Website: navc.com/conference/

**2018 Wildlife and Exotic Animal Symposium**
- Date: February 24-25, 2018
- Location: Gladys Valley Hall, UC Davis campus, Davis, California
- Website: www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/ce/symposia_and_events/wildlife/weas_2018.cfm

**Wisconsin Exotic Animal Veterinary Conference**
- Date: March 24-25, 2018
- Location: Madison, Wisconsin
- Website: weavc.org/

**Phoenix Landing Foundation 4th Wellness Retreat**
- Date: May 5-6, 2018
- Location: Asheville, North Carolina
- Website: www.phoenixlanding.org/2018-wellness-retreat.html

**ExoticsCon 2018 (AAV/AEMV/ARAV Joint Conference)**
- Dates: September 22-27, 2018
- Location: Atlanta, Georgia
- Website: exoticscon.org

**ExoticsCon 2019 (AAV/AEMV/ARAV) in Conjunction with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians**
- Dates: September 28-October 4, 2019
- Location: Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch, St. Louis, Missouri
- Website: exoticscon.org

Click here to view additional events on our online Calendar of Events.

Have an upcoming educational event to share with your fellow members? Please send details to pubs@aav.org.

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Proposal submission now through January 22

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