

# AAV NEWSLETTER

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN VETERINARIANS

JANUARY 2010



## *President's Message*

*Laurie Hess, DVM, Dipl ABVP*

The new year is fast approaching. Soon it will be time to renew your AAV membership. And what better way to tell your technicians that you appreciate them than with AAV technician memberships? It's really an investment in your own practice because, whatever your technicians learn from the AAV (through the articles in the Newsletter, the Clinical Forum, or the Journal of Avian Medicine and Surgery) or at the annual conference, they can help you and the rest of your staff improve the quality of your practice's bird care. They might even inspire other employees to join. For just a few dollars more, you can sponsor a student, thereby investing in the future of avian veterinary medicine.

When you're renewing your own membership this year, think ahead to the phenomenal conference you'll have an opportunity to attend next August in sunny San Diego. With the magnificent conference hotel, the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina (with its fantastic views of the San Diego Bay), the numerous local attractions San Diego offers (the San Diego Zoo, SeaWorld, and Petco Park, to name a few), we'll be tempted to skip lectures to go see the sights! But this year's conference program is going to be extra special, too, with several new speakers conducting master classes that include business management and promotion for exotic animal practitioners. We also have a thought-provoking lineup of speakers for an all-day avian welfare symposium that should really be a treat. All of this is in the works. Stay tuned.

So don't forget to give the gift of avian knowledge – to you and your staff. Renew your membership and invest in the future of your practice.



ORDER YOUR 2010 WINDOW DECAL  
WITH YOUR 2010  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL.

Add \$5 for one, \$11 for three. Include the amount with your renewal and indicate that you want the decals. RE-NEW ONLINE: [www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)

## *AAV Clinical Forum Submissions*

The Clinical Forum invites submissions related to clinical practice, case reports, and items of interest to practitioners. Submissions should be in Word format. E-mail as an attachment to:

[AAVPublications@aav.org](mailto:AAVPublications@aav.org).

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## **Prevention key to healthy pets**

Allie—a Labrador/cocker spaniel mix—is really only 18 in human years, but that's beyond the normal lifespan of a dog. Thanks to special care by their owners and advances in veterinary medicine, many experts believe, your pets could live longer and longer.

"She's in great health. You would not believe she's even close to 18," Montgomery says of Allie. "She's very active. I take her on two walks a day. We go about half a mile and sometimes she even runs."

Montgomery, who lives in Tulsa but often travels as a recording artist, feeds Allie a natural, home-cooked diet, full of chicken, beef, turkey, and some potatoes and rice. But aside from the diet, Montgomery also believes Allie's good health is due in part to regular visits and dietary supplements given to her from a New York holistic veterinarian named Dr. Martin Goldstein.

"He's a conventional vet, trained at Cornell (University) but he also does alternative therapies, natural ways of treating illnesses in dogs," Montgomery said.

"Almost three years ago, Allie had a mass in her abdomen as big as a baseball and my vet said it was inconclusive."

Having read Goldstein's book, "The Nature of Animal Healing," Montgomery decided to give his holistic method a try.

Goldstein's book led to appearances on the "Oprah Winfrey Show" and a regular spot as "Ask Martha's Vet" on Martha Stewart's Sirius Satellite Radio channel.

Montgomery took Allie to Goldstein's veterinary clinic in South Salem, N.Y., where she says clinicians analyzed Allie's blood work and created a nutritional powder to be sprinkled over her food. They also created a regimen of dietary supplements for Allie.

"After about a month, they checked the tumor and said it was a little bit smaller," she said, "and so far it's never given her any trouble."

Because she is also a believer in conventional medicine, Montgomery says she also takes Allie to local

veterinarian Dr. Paul Welch at Forest Trails Animal Hospital. Welch said the key to pet longevity is paying attention to your pet's needs and behavior.

"We get a lot of geriatric dogs animals lately. The biggest thing we're trying to do, honestly, here in the U.S. is preventive medicine."

Tulsa veterinarian Dr. Robert Poteet of Cedarwood Veterinary Clinic said that during his 40 years of experience, he's seen a twofold shift in animal longevity: the availability of advanced veterinary care and the willingness of pet owners to keep their pets healthy.

"It's not uncommon to see dogs live up to 15, 16 or 17, and cats can live to 18, 19 or 20," Poteet said. "Probably the most dramatic change is that pets are now considered to be part of the family more than they used to be."

And, Welch said, they should be treated that way.

"Dogs are social animals. They're pack animals, so they want to be with the rest of the pack. If he's not going to be a family member, don't bother. Also make sure they're not running loose, getting into fights. We found out years ago in cats that the average lifespan for an outdoor cat is seven years, and the average lifespan of an indoor cat is 12-14 years."

Not only are more diagnostic procedures available for pets — such as advanced imagery, surgery and dermatology — Poteet said people are willing to spend more money on pets.

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## **MEMORY GAME**

Developed by the European AAV, this game not only enhances your memory but also hones your skills in identifying hematology and histology slides. There are 32 images (64 cards). The goal of the game is to win all of the cards. Turn over two cards on each turn. When a player can match two from memory the player takes those two. Complete descriptions of the slides are included along with species represented and instructions on how to play.

A great pastime at breaks, or for tests of identification skills.

Proceeds from sales of the game support the EAAV Helga Gerlach Fund. \$49 PLUS SHIPPING - MC/VISA accepted. Order from the AAV Publications Office: [aavpublications@aav.org](mailto:aavpublications@aav.org)

## **Pet frogs are being blamed for a national salmonella outbreak that sickened at least 48 people.**

The illnesses occurred from June through November, with reports coming in from 25 states. Health officials investigating the illnesses found that many of the people said they'd been in contact with frogs such as the African dwarf frog. The salmonella strain was found in aquariums with frogs in three homes where illnesses occurred.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported the outbreak Monday.

Pet reptiles have been fingered as a source of salmonella infection before. At least 107 people were sickened in a recent outbreak blamed on turtles.



## **Avian and Exotics Medicine Club at UC Davis 25th Annual Symposium**

Dates: April 24 - 25, 2010

Location: School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis

The 25th Annual Avian and Exotics Symposium will present a wide variety of topics concerning exotic species medicine and surgery, including oncology, pathology, and radiology in avian species. 11 CE units are available. For more information please visit our website at <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/Clubs/AEMC/symposium.html>

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### **The following 10 veterinarians became new ACZM Diplomates in September 2009:**

Michael J. Adkesson, Brookfield, Illinois

Mads Bertelsen, Glostrup, Denmark

Christopher J. Bonar, Cleveland, OH

Sathya K. Chinnadurai, Raleigh, NC

Michelle Davis, Oklahoma City, OK

Marion Desmarchelier, Saint

Hyacinthe, Quebec, Canada

Simon Hollamby, Roslin, Scotland, UK

Felicia B. Nutter, San Rafael, CA

Luis Padilla, Front Royal, VA

Kristine Smith, Bronx, NY

### **2009 Proceedings, Milwaukee, WI**

The digital copy of the 2009 proceedings is up on the AAV website. ([www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)). Sign in the Members Area, Select the link to *Publications* and then to *Proceedings*. The access codes can be found behind the member's only wall.

Access is case-sensitive. Non-members will be denied access.

Hard copies may be ordered from the publications office. (\$55+ \$5 shipping).

There are also a small number of the proceedings from the combined Sunday program; AAV- Pre Surgical Patient; AEMV- Small Mammals (\$25)

Fax order to: 817-599-0088

## **Shelters filling up with Chihuahuas**

In San Francisco, Chihuahuas are showing up in local animal shelters, and the shelters are scrambling to find homes for them.

Kat Brown, the deputy director for San Francisco Animal Care and Control, tells NPR that there are 23 Chihuahuas at her pound, a third of all dogs there.

"It's extremely unusual," Brown says. In years past, the dominant breed was the pit bull. Not so this year. The culprit? Brown blames the pocket-pet phenomenon that Paris Hilton made popular. The downward economy also has a lot to do with it, she says.

Chihuahuas need just as much care as their larger canine counterparts.

"Chihuahuas, unlike other dogs, are more difficult to handle sometimes," Brown says. "People think of them as ... stuffed animals ... but, in fact, they're like a little dog, and they need all of the things that a big dog needs."

## **Annual Dates to Remember**

- 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXPO, August 1-5, 2010
- Annual Business Meeting. First Monday of the Annual Conference at 12:30 p.m.

PROCEEDINGS-If you do not plan to attend the annual Conference and Expo, and you paid extra to receive a hard copy and do not received one by the end of October of the same year, please notify the Central Office by fax or email.

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### **Your 2010 membership renewal**

is due January 1, 2010. Your timely renewal will ensure uninterrupted access to the Member's Only area of the AAV website. Late renewals may be purged from the Member's Only list and forfeit their discounted renewal rate. Late renewals will need to re-apply for login codes after 2/26/10.

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## **IN-MEMORIAM CARDS SHOW YOUR CLIENTS YOU CARE WHILE YOU DONATE TO RESEARCH**

The AAV offers beautiful cards to send to your clients after the loss of a beloved pet. The cards are heavy weight, are on off-white card stock, and each has its own gold foil-lined envelopes.

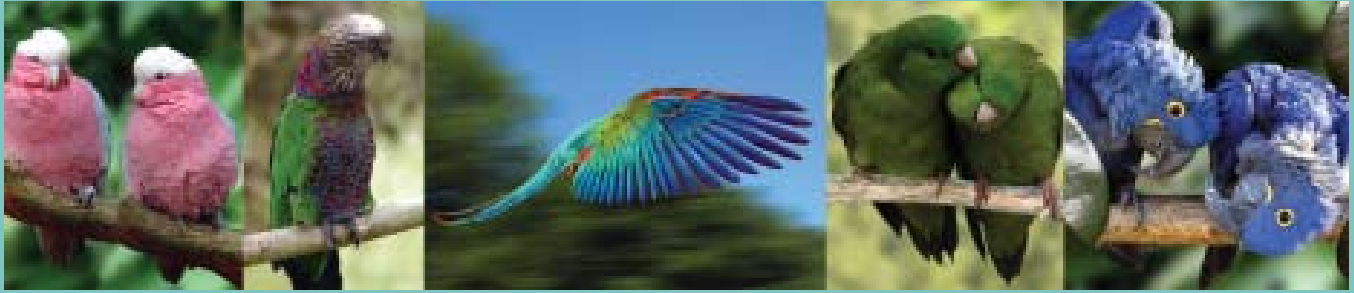
You may purchase a set of six cards for \$30. Clients appreciate that you care and that you are contributing to the research that can save other pets.

At the same time, you are supporting the AAV research fund that was started in 1980. A list of studies receiving AAV grants is published on the AAV Web site.

You may contact the publications office directly to order these cards, or print out the publications order form from the AAV site ([www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)).

Photo by Megan Parks





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JANUARY 2010



**Conference Corner**  
31st Annual Association of  
Avian Veterinarians Conference & Expo  
with the Association of  
Exotic Mammal Veterinarians  
San Diego, California  
San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina  
August 1-5, 2010  
[www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav](http://www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav)

**2010 Conference to be Held in San Diego!** *Make Plans Now to Attend the 31st Annual AAV Conference & Expo with the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians*

Conference days: Sunday—Thursday

- Practical labs: AAV labs held on Tuesday
- AAV Pre-Conference Program: Held on Sunday and joint with the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians Scientific Program

**Watch for details on the AAV Conference Website!**

[www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav](http://www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav)