

# AAV NEWSLETTER

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF AVIAN VETERINARIANS

OCTOBER 2009



We finally did it! We finally held a joint conference of the Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV), the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (AEMV), and the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV), and it was a great success! After much discussion and endless planning by Debbie Cowen and her staff at Summit Meetings, and the AAV Conference Committee, the conference took place in Milwaukee over eight days. The phenomenal program included an AEMB-sponsored lab session held at Dr. Marla Lichtenberger's new emergency clinic and a conservation field trip to the Horicon Marsh. Next came the AAV's pre-conference program, which focused on the surgical patient from pre-surgical conditions to post-op care, and the AEMV's scientific session that covered developments in small mammal disease and treatment.

After a full first day of lecture, registrants kicked off the main conference with a behind-the-scenes-tour of the Milwaukee Zoo. The next day, they were treated to a thought-provoking welcome talk on animal welfare by Dr. Gail Golab, head of the AVMA's Animal Welfare Division, followed by another full day of presentations covering topics in avian medicine, avian diseases and therapeutics, and avian diagnostics. Simultaneously, our technician registrants enjoyed a session of their own on avian and exotic animal care, and our student members got to show off their work with their posters on display. The day ended with sundaes at the ice cream social followed by a stimulating discussion at the AAV Research Forum.

The next day included practical labs of all kinds—from hematology to foraging—something for everyone. Registrants were able to ask questions of the various experts via numerous round table discussions held by each of the three associations. Some attendees rounded out the day at the Pathology Forum, while student

registrants socialized at the Student Reception. There were smaller group discussions at the various Master Classes, where participants heard about herbal medicine, avian integument, and how to publish case reports, among other topics.

On Wednesday, some attendees shopped at the fully stocked exhibit hall and had a chance to bid on many desirable items at the always-popular live auction. After a full day of Master Classes, registrants ate and drank at the President's Reception, where several enthusiastic members serenaded us with the help of a karaoke machine.

The last day of the avian part of the conference covered continuing and upcoming research studies, case studies, behavior, and wildlife topics. Those lucky enough to stay on for the rest of the ARAV conference were treated to three full days of talks and labs on anything and everything you would ever want to

Association of  
Avian Veterinarians  
PO Box 811720

Boca Raton, FL 33481

Newsletter Editor:

Kathy Lyon

aavpublications@aav.org

(817) 599-7766

Cover photographs courtesy of Bob Perry, UK,  
[www.geocities.com/bobperry5148](http://www.geocities.com/bobperry5148).

Cover color design by IndigoHorse.  
[www.indigohorse.com](http://www.indigohorse.com)

© 2009 Association of Avian Veterinarians

AAV CENTRAL OFFICE - P.O. Box 811720 - Boca Raton, FL 33481. 561-393-8901 - Fax 561-393-8902. [aavctrlofc@aol.com](mailto:aavctrlofc@aol.com)  
AAV Publications Office, PO Box 2584, Weatherford, TX 76086  
817-599-7766 - [aavpublications@aav.org](mailto:aavpublications@aav.org) - Website: [www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)

## President's Message

Continued From Page One

---

know about lizards, turtles, tortoises, and snakes. All in all, this was a comprehensive conference on exotic animal medicine.

And, despite the economic crisis, the conference was well attended. We had 638 attendees, 203 of whom were first-timers. Perhaps one of the most exciting outcomes of this year's conference is that the AAV raised over \$37,000 for two important projects. This year, the committee awarded \$9,356 to J. Paul-Murphy and D. Guzman for their study: "Renal, gastrointestinal, and hemostatic effects of meloxicam in Hispaniolan Amazon parrots (*Amazona ventralis*)." Second, this year, in addition to the traditional Avian Research Fund, the AAV initiated the self-perpetuating Avian Research Endowment Fund. The initial goal for this fund is \$300,000. The AAV board envisions that, with the new endowment fund and the growing success of our ever-improving annual conference, the AAV will always be able to contribute to the vital area of avian research.

In addition to research, the AAV funds two other programs not funded by conference profits: the Student and Resident Manuscript Competitions and Conference Scholarships. The Student Manuscript Competition was won this year by Katherine Ratzlaff for her paper, "Plasma concentrations of fluconazole after single oral dose and administration in water in cockatiels (*Nymphicus hollandicus*)." The Resident Manuscript winner was Dr. Hugues Beaufriere for his study, "Transesophageal echocardiography in the normal bird." The value of these prizes is \$1,200. Three conference scholarships to veterinarians outside the United States and Canada—who would otherwise be unable to attend the current annual conference—are awarded each year based on the recipient's ability to disseminate the information gathered at the conference upon their return to their home countries. This year's conference scholarship recipients were Patricia Serafini from Brazil, Danijela Horvatek from Croatia, and Marco

Encisco from Peru. The three scholarships are valued at \$4,400. Congratulations to the scholarship winners and to everyone who contributed to the success of the conference and the start-up of the new Avian Research Endowment Fund.

---

## 2009 Proceedings, Milwaukee, WI

The digital copy of the 2009 proceedings is up on the AAV website. ([www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org)). Select the link to *Publications* and then to *Proceedings*.

The access codes (members only) are:

User name: milwaukee2009

Password: AAVWISC

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

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

---

## Conservation Committee

**AAV Committees Need YOU!** The AAV offers a lot in terms of supporting research, scientific communication, avian conservation, and continuing educational opportunities. Did you know that most of this is accomplished by volunteer members? Your voice (and manpower) counts! Committees are the member's chance to have an impact on global avian health, welfare, and conservation issues. Please consider joining a committee today or attending a committee meeting at the annual conference. The standing meetings are open to all members including students. A list of committees and chairpersons can be found in the front of the AAV membership directory (on the website) or contact the Central Office at [aavctrlofc@aol.co](mailto:aavctrlofc@aol.co)

## Some human foods can be toxic to pets

Reported by: Cary Williams,  
WFTS-TV

It happens to a lot of pet owners. You're at the dinner table, or maybe sitting on the sofa watching TV.

You look over and there are those big sad eyes that say, "Please feed me. I'm really starving! Seriously!"

While it's okay to feed Fido a little steak or bread, there are certain people foods that can cause your pet to suffer greatly. In some cases, it can lead to death.

Dr. Sonja Olson, DVM is acutely aware of the dangers of feeding people food to pets. She's a Senior Emergency Clinician at Florida Veterinary Specialists and works the overnight shift.

"On a nightly basis we usually see pets that have suffered bad reactions to people food."

So what's one of the worst things you can feed your pet?

"Chocolate is a biggie," Dr. Olson said.

Chocolate contains theobromine, an alkaloid from the cacao plant. If eaten in large quantities, it can kill your pet. Dark and unsweetened chocolates contain high quantities of theobromine, and can be especially lethal.

Candy in general is bad for pets. Sugar free candy and gum can be downright deadly. According to Dr. Olson, sugar free candy can be "especially dangerous" for dogs because it contains xylitol.

While completely safe for humans, it can cause a dog's blood sugar level to plummet, which can lead to seizures and even death. Too much xylitol also can cause liver damage.

According to one recent article, two sticks of sugar free gum can kill a 20-pound dog.

The dangers aren't just limited to candies. There are other people foods that can harm your pet:

Nuts – Walnuts and macadamia nuts can be particularly lethal.

Avocados – This fruit has a high fatty content and element in avocados called persin, which can cause tissue damage.

Onions – Onions can be toxic to pets, damaging red blood cells leading to anemia and breathing problems.

Grapes and raisins – Dr. Olson said the problem with grapes and raisins is not fully understood. The Web site PetEducation.com suggests it may have to do with the “fleshy” part of the grape. Symptoms can include vomiting and lethargy with an end result of kidney damage.

Medicine – It’s not uncommon for pet owners to give their pets people medicine to ease an ache or pain. But some drugs, especially acetaminophen and ibuprofen, can cause liver damage, ulcers, kidney failure and death.

Bones - In particular, this applies to chicken and pork bones. Not only can they get stuck in your pet’s throat, marrow inside the bones is not a good thing. “The marrow inside the bone is very rich and can cause them to have inflammation of the pancreas and cause them to become quite ill,” said Dr. Olson.



## AAV Committees Need YOU!

The AAV offers a lot in terms of supporting research, scientific communication, avian conservation, and continuing educational opportunities. Did you know that most of this is accomplished by volunteer members? Your voice (and manpower) counts! Committees are the member’s chance to have an impact on global avian health, welfare, and conservation issues. Please consider joining a committee today or attending a committee meeting at the annual conference. The standing meetings are open to all members including students. A list of committees and chairpersons can be found in the front of the membership directory at [www.aav.org](http://www.aav.org), or contact the Central Office at [aavctrlofc@aol.com](mailto:aavctrlofc@aol.com).

Here is a short quiz. Can you name the location was for each year’s conference?

- 1980 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1981 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1982 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1983 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1984 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1985 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1986 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1987 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1988 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1989 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1990 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1991 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1992 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1993 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1994 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1995 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1996 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1997 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1998 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1999 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2000 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2001 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2002 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2003 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2004 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2005 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2006 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2007 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2008 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2009 \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:

- 2009 Milwaukee
- 2008 Savannah
- 2007 Providence
- 2006 San Antonio
- 2005 Monterey
- 2004 New Orleans
- 2003 Pittsburgh
- 2002 Monterey
- 2001 Orlando
- 2000 Portland
- 1999 New Orleans
- 1998 St Paul
- 1997 Reno
- 1996 Tampa
- 1995 Philadelphia
- 1994 Reno
- 1993 Nashville
- 1992 New Orleans
- 1991 Chicago
- 1990 Phoenix
- 1989 Seattle
- 1988 Houston
- 1987 Hawaii
- 1986 Miami
- 1985 Boulder
- 1984 Toronto
- 1983 San Diego
- 1982 Atlanta
- 1981 Atlanta
- 1980 Kalamazoo

## ***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)).





Association of Avian Veterinarians  
P.O. Box 811720  
Boca Raton, FL 33481  
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

**OCTOBER 2009**



**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**  
July 31-August 5, 2010  
[www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav](http://www.ConferenceOffice.com/aav)

We are pleased to announce the Call for Papers for the 2010 AAV Annual Conference & Expo with the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians in San Diego, California, USA. Please complete the Call for Papers application and return it to the Conference Office NO LATER THAN October 30, 2009. You may also submit your application on the internet at [www.conferenceoffice.com/aav](http://www.conferenceoffice.com/aav). Attention Technicians: We plan to offer a special program for our veterinary technicians, so please submit your abstracts to share your knowledge and experience.