

AAV Member Spotlight: Kathryn Gamble, DVM, MS, Dipl ACZM, Dip ECZM (ZHM)

What was the first bird job you ever had?

At 11 years of age, I was a volunteer naturalist at Armand Bayou Nature Center in Houston Texas. My supervisor was an ornithologist who taught me how to appropriately jesse and handle birds of prey. At that age, the red-tailed hawks were taller than my head when I had them perched on the glove!

Most memorable AAV experience or contribution

My first research endeavors following achievement of American College of Zoological Medicine specialization was funded by an AAV grant. It explored the anatomy of the hornbill casque and paranasal sinuses – and allowed ongoing investigations in this taxon, especially with giant hornbills and casque squamous cell carcinoma.

What is your favorite avian species and why?

All 53 species of hornbills! I have been the Coraciiformes (now Bucerotiiformes) Taxon Advisory Group veterinary advisor and Buceros (rhino and giant hornbills) Species Survival Plan veterinary advisor since 1996...I literally took on the entire Order just to get hornbills!

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

When avian influenza precluded our use of powdered eggs in Lincoln Park Zoo's flamingo baby formulae in 2015, I utilized my training in culinary methods from Le Cordon Bleu to reformulate their diet using molecular gastronomy equipment (PacoJet). The resulting product was even better than the original and the chicks really liked my cooking.

Best benefit of AAV membership?

Collaboration with amazing colleagues

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

Chef de Cuisine in a Michelin starred restaurant

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

Pharmacology



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AAV Member Since 1992