

AAV Member Spotlight: Julie Hébert, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

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.

What was the first bird job you ever had?

I grew up with budgies. When my neighbour's cat got a hold of one of them, I took him to the only bird hospital there was in our province. I was impressed by the exotic-only hospital and soon applied to volunteer. I started cleaning cages as a teenager in the boarding facility. I didn't know at the time that this constant contact with so many species would be so precious. I worked as a receptionist and a technician at the hospital and, under the guidance of the hospital owner and my mentor Corina Lupu, I eventually became an avian vet myself.

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

We are currently managing a 1.5-yr-old Quaker with a history of PU/PD and polyphagia. He is hyperglycemic, glucosuric and has clinical signs of EPI (pale, bulky and oily stools). All his lab results are in grey zones so nothing is conclusive yet. So far he is responding well to insulin glargine and pancreatic enzymes as well as empirical treatment for pancreatitis. We are hoping the owner accepts a biopsy of the pancreas in the next few days!

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

Equine medicine! But I love horticulture too...



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