

AAV Member Spotlight: Brittney Riley, DVM

What was the first bird job you ever had?

I started working with birds professionally as a zookeeper at the Lincoln Children's Zoo in Lincoln, Nebraska in 2000 at age seventeen. I worked there full time from 2000-2005. I then chose to go to veterinary school.

What is your favorite avian species and why?

I love European white storks, mainly because my first big success as a zookeeper was manipulating our pair of stork's diet and getting them to nest, mate and lay eggs for the very first time. Their names were Vlasic and Gerkin. They laid five eggs. They did not hatch that year, but I had names picked out if they did: Claussen, Dill, Kosher and Relish.

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

I had a ring neck dove brought in that had a degloving injury over the crop due to a presumed hit by car. As you would assume it did not turn out well, but it did lead to some interesting ideas of how to manage the wound. Not to mention the client issue as no one would claim the bird as their own.

Best benefit of AAV membership?

Access to new scientific literature on avian medicine.

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

Growing up my goal was to be a music teacher. Looking back that was because it was the only logical way my 2nd-3rd grade brain could justify learning every musical instrument pictured on the music room's wall. So seeing that I play 10 instruments I guess I'd probably be a music teacher!

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

I loved stalking the necropsy floor waiting to see what happened to come in so I could help find out what was wrong.



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