

AAV Member Spotlight: Yasmeen Prud'homme

What was the first bird job you ever had?

My first introduction to avian medicine and conservation was volunteering for the Macaw Project in Peru's Tambopata National Reserve. I got to collaborate with biologists and veterinarians to collect field data on the wild psittacids living in that area. That incredible experience before I started vet school definitely set me on the track towards pursuing a career working with birds and wildlife!

What is your favorite avian species and why?

Hard to say! This answer changes very frequently, but at the moment it would have to be the Kākāpō because they are beautiful birds, unique in the parrot world (nocturnal, flightless, the heaviest) and they are critically endangered. I'd love to one day contribute to their recovery in the wild. Scarlet macaws also hold a special place in my heart.

Best benefits of AAV membership?

As a student member, I was lucky enough to be selected as a recipient for a student externship scholarship this summer that allowed me to travel to California to work in a wildlife center. I got to work with many avian species and got my first exposure to marine mammal medicine!

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

A wildlife biologist

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

Although I've loved all my exotic animal medicine classes, surprisingly my favorite class was equine internal medicine. Equine medicine was never a passion of mine, but this class included great hands-on labs that allowed me to gain confidence in performing diagnostic and therapeutic procedures on large species. It was an optional class and only 10 of us took it, so we all got very constructive feedback from our professors.



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