

## AAV Member Spotlight: Julia Ponder, DVM

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.



### Julia Ponder

DVM (adding MPH in a month!)  
Executive Director  
The Raptor Center, College of  
Veterinary Medicine, University of  
Minnesota  
St. Paul, Minnesota, USA  
**AAV Member Since 1999**

### What was the first bird job you ever had?

While I worked in companion animal practice for many years and have a lifetime passion for birds, my first true bird job was staff veterinarian at The Raptor Center.

### Most memorable AAV experience or contribution

Speaking at the EAAV plenary session in Germany on ethics in species conservation programs - it was a privilege to be asked to speak on a topic that I am so passionate about!

### What is your favorite avian species and why?

What a tough question! I would say the Galapagos hawk, as my work with that species has led to the most profound, impactful and rewarding work I have ever done.

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

While just one of many interesting issues that I have worked with, the most current one is the emergence of H5N2 avian influenza in Minnesota. While heartbreaking for the poultry industry, trying to understand the wildlife component is a fascinating puzzle.

### Best benefits of AAV membership?

The amazing network of professional colleagues and friends!

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

I am going to cheat a bit - if I had not chosen my present career of working with wild birds and Ecosystem Health, I would be happily working as a small animal practitioner. I can't imagine working outside of the veterinary community.

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

Small animal surgery

**members  
in the news**

Julia Ponder was featured in an interview on MPR News on April 30, 2015 discussing a western Minnesota hawk found with avian influenza. Click the link below for the article and audio interview.



LISTEN Julia Ponder, executive director of the Raptor Center, talks with MPR News' Tom Crann  
4min 30sec