What was the first bird job you ever had?

After graduating from Seattle University in 2014, I was floundering searching for a job when I happened upon the Bird & Exotic Clinic of Seattle. When I visited for my working interview, I met Billy, their cockatiel mascot. He quickly taught me the ins and outs of parrot handling and interaction (never miss an opportunity for head scratches!). I proceeded to learn how to work with birds of all shapes and sizes and I haven’t looked back!

What is your favorite avian species and why?

Rose-breasted cockatoo (Galah): gorgeous, smart, and the perfect shoulder-perching size. What more could you ask for?

Best benefits of AAV membership?

Finding my fellow bird-lovers! But for real – keeping up-to-date with my love of everything avian has been challenging during vet school. Being able to explore different aspects of the AAV community has helped me continue to expand my interests as well as educate my peers.

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

Photography! Give me a foreign landscape, a pair of lovebirds, or my best friends on the dance floor – I find so much joy in capturing my life experiences through images. Just ask my pup, Parker, or my cockatiel, Smee, how many treats they have received while posing in front of my lens!

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

Ever been on safari in Oregon? I sure have! To date, my favorite experience in vet school was traveling down to Wildlife Safari in Winston, Oregon. While there, we got to tour the park, veterinary facilities, and animal habitats. We met their ambassador cheetahs, elephants and giraffes as well as their resident Moluccan cockatoo, Carmen.

Do you have a favorite tip or trick for clinical avian practice that you can share with AAV members?

BEWARE: Budgies LOVE cuticles so keep yours out of their “bite zone!”

Submit Your Profile for the AAV Member Spotlight

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.