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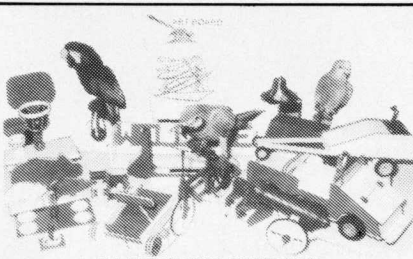
AVIAN PUBLICATIONS

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Avian Veterinarians Held Annual Meeting in Houston

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The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) is a rapidly growing professional organization which strives to meet the needs of today's ever increasing number of avian veterinarians. Presently boasting approximately 2,000 members, AAV membership is open to licensed veterinarians and their registered animal health technicians.

The Association of Avian Veterinarians recently held their 1988 annual conference in Houston, Texas. Approximately 500 AAV members attended the conference, which featured lectures, hands-on experience wet labs, and a behind-the-scenes tour of the Houston Zoo.

Many interesting topics were presented, including several new findings which should be of interest to aviculturists and pet bird owners. Dr. Branson Richie from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Athens, Georgia, reported on his work with a virus thought to be the causative agent of the psittacine beak and feather syndrome. Dr. Ritchie was able to isolate a virus from affected psittacines, purify the isolated virus, and then experimentally produce clinical signs of disease in unaffected neonatal budgies and cockatiels. Further research is underway and, hopefully, a vaccine for this devastating disease is potentially possible.

Dr. Marjorie McMillian of the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital of Boston, Massachusetts, spoke of her work with a human gammaglobulin preparation to treat birds affected with psittacine beak and feather disease. Preliminary findings indicate that birds treated in the *early* stages

of the disease show improvement in both attitude and clinical appearance.

Dr. Susan Clubb of Pet Farms, Inc., in Miami, Florida, who works extensively with imported birds, reported on field trials with a killed parrot pox vaccine. Vaccinated birds demonstrated decreased mortality in addition to a decrease in the severity of the disease in those birds affected with parrot pox. The vaccine is scheduled to be released in November for use by veterinarians. Suggested uses for the vaccine include vaccination of susceptible species prior to importation in the country of origin, birds targeted for resale in pet shops, and in breeding collections where the virus has been diagnosed.

Dr. Douglas Yearout, a private practitioner in Everett, Washington, spoke about his experiences using an aspergillus vaccine in waterfowl. Clinically affected birds which were subsequently vaccinated showed improvement in clinical signs. This vaccine thus has the potential to help those birds affected with the typically fatal fungus, Aspergillosis.

Many other interesting topics were covered which aid in the expanding bank of knowledge which is available to avian veterinarians. These included lectures regarding specific case reports and advances in avian pharmacology.

The conference was considered to be quite a success for those participating in this year's activities. Additionally, AFA member Jerry Jennings manned a booth for the American Federation of Aviculture and was successful in recruiting 56 new memberships for the organization. ●