



**“Run by Veterinary Nurses for Veterinary Nurses”**



The **Association of Zoo & Exotic Veterinary Nurses (AZEVN)**, was founded in 2016 by Veterinary Nurses wanting to create a unique organisation; offering affordable CPD opportunities, and helping to facilitate the exchange of information and networking between RVN's. This helps us to promote and maintain the highest standard of veterinary nursing within zoo and exotic institutions.

Visit our website to find out more about the AZEVN – [www.azevn.org](http://www.azevn.org)

**2020 AZEVN CONFERENCE**

**Date:-** 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020

**Venue:-** West Midlands Safari Park,  
Spring Grove House.

**Social Venue:-** La Brasserie,  
Freeman Suit. Kidderminster.

**Keynote Speaker:- Dr Bev Panto**  
BVetMed BSc (Hons) CertAVP  
(ZooMed) PGCert (VetEd) FHEA  
MRCVS.

**“A welfare guided approach to  
British wildlife rehabilitation”.**

**Bookings open early 2020 and  
you must be a member to attend!  
But November 2019 is the start of  
automatic membership renewal,  
so you will continue to be so!**

**CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME – MATTHEW RENDLE RVN**

Our 2019 Conference was a great success, such diversity in speakers and the subjects of the lectures, I really enjoyed the Keynote Lecture on elephant conservation by Jen Quayle, she gave a really good overview of awkward truths around housing and trying to conserve our the largest animal that walks our earth!!

2019 has seen the AZEVN take another couple of big steps forward with the introduction of a membership charge; the AZEVN is totally not for profit and run completely by volunteers and this £10 membership fee allows us to keep expanding our website and keep the 2020 Conference Delegate rate at an affordable £95. Secondly, we have now opened a membership option for vets and paraprofessionals to join the AZEVN, but not attend the conference for now.

I would like to end by asking a big favour, can you all look out for each other, we work in a profession that can be very hard both mentally and physically, we need to support each other, a kind word, a cup of tea or just a friendly unjudging ear can make the world of difference, we all need it at times, so try and be more open with each other, I am very proud of the AZEVN team, but what we do is only made possible by the amazing support we give each other and the support we receive by the people around us, please talk to each other if you are struggling.



**VISIT THE NEW & HELPFUL AREAS ON OUR WEBSITE!!**



**Evidence Based Veterinary Nursing** is the use of current, robust evidence in making clinical decisions. This aims to improve the quality of care we provide. Most of us unconsciously gather information, but why not Plan, Produce and Publish to benefit the wider VN community? It's really not as scary as it sounds! Visit our website for an extensive list of tips. <https://azevn.org/resources/evidence-based-veterinary-nursing/>

**Mindfulness:** We are all guilty of taking work home at some point; It's so easy to focus on the sad events and the struggles of the day. Sometimes it takes someone to point out the positives. A board of happiness is a great way to boost morale. It could be simple like 'my colleague made me a tea when I really needed it' or something a kind client has said.

Please share your experiences and suggestions with us at [info@azevn.org](mailto:info@azevn.org), so we can include them anonymously on our social media platforms as 'happiness posts' to remind us all of the good we've experienced.

Please also visit our new '**VN Wellbeing**' section for more advice and information on mental health. <https://azevn.org/resources/vn-wellbeing> . There are many people who can help.

## CRAM UPDATE & WVI PROJECT

The AZEVN's chosen charity for 2019 was the CRAM Foundation for the Rehabilitation and Conservation of Marine Animals.

CRAM is headed by Veterinary Surgeon Tania Monreal Pawlowsky, who has links with IZVG. She is currently training other vets in Sea Turtle Medicine and Handling and has recently run a course in Sea Turtle Rehabilitation in Greece.

Success stories from CRAM include Leftie, pictured below, who was released back into the wild after being found with fishing net injuries including a traumatic flipper amputation, eye injuries and deep lacerations to her neck. Thanks to WVI supporters, Tania and her team was able to rehabilitate and release her.



## VETERINARY NEWS

Boehringer Ingelheim has launched the first-ever registered stem cell-based veterinary medicine!

Arti-cell Forte was launched in Europe for the 'reduction of mild to moderate recurrent lameness associated with joint inflammation in horses'. This therapy utilises specifically primed, chondrogenic induced stem cells to improve health and wellbeing.

It is exciting to think about the potential applications for other species in the future!

©BSAVA Aug 2019

### AND

With a significant increase in people keeping poultry as pets in recent years, the BSAVA have released the perfect new manual. 'Backyard Poultry Medicine and Surgery' was released in August this year. From general information on anatomy, to diagnostic techniques including endoscopy!

## WE NEED YOU!!!

Have you got an interesting topic in mind, or been a part of an exciting case that we can all learn from?

The speaker application is **NOW OPEN** for our 2020 Conference <https://azevn.org/event-speakers/>

Also as always, keep a sharp eye out for our coveted, Golden Tickets opportunities! All details to be confirmed soon!!



## ACHIEVEMENTS & RESOURCES CONTRIBUTED TO BY AZEVN MEMBERS



In this newsletter we wanted to take a moment to focus on mental wellbeing, the veterinary industry can be, and is very rewarding, but for many of us it has its challenges too. It has been the focus of lectures given at previous AZEVN conferences and will continue to be a focus of ours in the years to come. With this in mind, we wanted to show some of the amazing achievements of our members, give you inspiration and encourage all of us to look after ourselves and support each other.

This year, our very own Chairman Matt Rendle and Secretary Sophie Sparrow attended and presented at the AZVT conference in Colorado, with Matt being awarded Best Presentation!!

Kirsty Dewhurst, our marketing assistant contributed to Vetstream Exotic. Sam Ashfield (Twycross Zoo) presented at BVZS 2019 and Annabel Shaw (Vets Now Exotic Referrals) lectured at ICARE 2019.

Bristol Zoo have opened the largest Brown Bear exhibit in the UK and the Wound Angels have continued to provide first class exotic CPD. Many of you, our members have also enrolled on, or completed the C&G Advanced Programs in Exotic and Zoo nursing.

Finally, **congratulations** to Jo Hinde (LagoLearn, 2018-19 AZEVN Volunteer) as she becomes BVNA president!

These achievements are just the tip of the iceberg and show what a successful, diverse bunch of nurses we are!

## FUNDRAISING IN 2019

With your fabulous help and support, we have raised an impressive £723 for Wildlife Vets International, which was the chosen AZEVN Charity for 2019.

These funds will go towards CRAM – Foundation for the Rehabilitation & Conservation of Marine Animals, in Barcelona.

## THANK YOU!!

It is the continued support from our members and sponsors that continue to allow AZEVN to thrive. We cannot tell you how much we appreciate you getting involved and creating a rich learning environment, that also allows us to support the wider exotic, veterinary community.

It has been a pleasure to be a part of this organisation. So, keep an eye out in 2020 for your opportunity to contribute as an AZEVN volunteer.

Take care!  
Jess Bell and Jo Noble  
2019-20 Volunteers.

