



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

**The Association of Zoo and Exotic Veterinary Nurses**

Founded in 2015. For more information, please visit [www.azevn.org](http://www.azevn.org)

**2023 NEWSLETTER: Issue 7**



**Note from AZEVN Chair, Matthew Rendle RVN**

Firstly, I would like to thank Catherine, Cassie and Hailey for putting together this year’s newsletter – the AZEVN is really lucky to have such great volunteers. If you are interested in maybe becoming a volunteer, please speak to any of the committee or current volunteers.

This year has seen the AZEVN continue to grow, we held our first strategy meeting this year to try to ensure we keep the association on point and fit for purpose. From this, there will be some constitutional changes again this year. Thank you to all who assisted with the strategy day by completing our online surveys and I would like to especially thank Chloe White RVN, a long-term friend of the AZEVN, for facilitating the strategy day.

Planning is well underway for our 2024 conference. We have reviewed all of the feedback and are planning to include as many requested topics as possible. Tickets will go live in the next couple of months and is expected to book up quickly!

Finally, I would just like to remind you that the AZEVN is yours and please engage and let us know any ideas you have for the future as its always great to hear from you!

**Thank you!**

2023 has been a great year with a total members number of 470 active members. 50 of which are associates.

Our Website is constantly being added to, so make sure you make the most of the resources we have available there. Within our CPD section, we give overviews of many different species and cover various topics. These are great to aid in any research you may be doing, or simply to use as CPD.

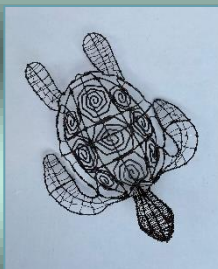
This years conference had some great constructive feedback, thank you. This is vital to ensuring we give the best conference we can and cover subjects that you find beneficial.

**Raffle & Snare Art!**

At this years conference we had some incredible items in the raffle, some of these were a real draw for ticket buyers, especially the snare art? For those of you who dint get to see it or know much about its origin here is a little info.

The Snare art is sold by the Painted Dog Conservation UK. It is made from snares and old wire removed from the wild landscape from several countries in Africa, preventing animals becoming entangled. It is then passed on to the amazingly talented local artists who turn it in to the incredibly lifelike art. These artists are often from areas with challenging socio-economic problems and this gives them a regular income, this to me represents TRUE One Health.

For more information please contact Derek Fry the Chair of the Painted Dog Conservation UK at [derek@painteddog.org](mailto:derek@painteddog.org)



## AZEVN Bytes 2023

AZEVN Bytes was held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October. We had a great turnout with a total of 66 delegates attending. It was held online via zoom and provided a total of 4hrs CPD. Fantastic presentations ranged from Practical bat nursing by Tony Teece to a Guide to rabbit behaviour, done by one our own volunteers Cassie. Other great topics included Greater one horned Rhino immobilization in Toronto Zoo, Nursing the amphibian patient, Blood sampling, which covered sites and techniques, Rehabilitation of UK owl species and Nursing and rehabilitation of rhino calves. A great variety of informative presentations, some of which are available in our members resource area. Thank you to all who took part and attended.

**Please contact us if you would like to be a speaker at one of our events.**

AZEVN BYTES



## Charity Donations

We are delighted to announce that we raised the fabulous sum of £1,700 for Wildlife Vets International in 2023! This was due to your overwhelming generosity at our main Conference in May. We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone for getting involved.

For 2024, we are having a change, and we will be raising money for Vetlife. We know how challenging life can be at the moment and Vetlife provide a vital range of services that many nurses can benefit from. You can find out more about them by visiting [www.vetlife.org.uk](http://www.vetlife.org.uk)

## Meet the 2023 / 2024 AZEVN Volunteers



My name is Catherine I have been a qualified nurse for 12years. I currently work at a small animal practice in Surrey and I'm always first in line to help with any small furrries that come in. I have kept rats, rabbits, Guinea pigs and even pet cows in my life so far. My passion has been to further my knowledge about each species, their behaviour and husbandry requirements. Making sure to carry my knowledge through to my work and ensure each patient gets the best care. My motto has always been to treat my patients as if they are my own. I think the key is to informing clients and supporting them as best we can.

I was first introduced to AZEVN by Jo and love the way they encourage members to share their knowledge to better themselves and improve patient care in this field.



I am Cassie Morrison and I have been qualified as a veterinary nurse since January 2021. Whilst training I developed a keen interest in exotics species and volunteered at a Wildlife Hospital during my third year of veterinary nurse training. Once I qualified, I moved to a mixed small animal and exotics practice in Shenfield, Essex called Tari Vets. I am particularly passionate about rabbit nursing and husbandry and recently became Lead Rabbit Nurse in my practice.

I work alongside AZEVN chair Matthew Rendle, who has taught me so much about exotic species nursing. In my free time, I volunteer at a local rabbit rescue called Hoppy Acre and foster rabbits when I can.



My name is Hailey Stapleton and I am a newly qualified veterinary nurse. I've been in small animal practice for the last 3 years and most of my exotics experience comes through volunteer zookeeping in a herpetological section, volunteering in exotics rescue and volunteering as a sea turtle rehabilitation assistant while in university.

I have just accepted a full time role in a mixed practice and am very much looking forward to gaining more exotics experience from a nursing perspective.

Research is a passion of mine and now that I have my name on a published study, I've got the research bug and will be getting myself more involved.

## Golden Tickets

Last years winners were over the moon when they won a FREE ticket to our Conference! A huge thank you to our sponsors that made this possible. To find out more about last years winners, and to find out how to apply for this years competition, please check out the AZEVN website.



## AZEVN Conference 2024

Next years conference will be held on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of May at West Midlands Safari Park. We will be at Treetops Pavilion again following a huge success this year and all of your positive feedback about this location. More information will be sent to members soon!

## Members Renewal Fees

For just £10 a year, members can benefit from everything the AZEVN has to offer including access to species specific parameters, career information, like minded networking opportunities and more! Full members are eligible to attend our May Conference and all members are welcome at our online Conference.

**Please note: Memberships will renew automatically each year.**



## TOP TOOLS TO KEEP HANDY AS AN EXOTIC'S VETERINARY NURSE

At last year's conference, the delegate gift was a AZEVN Purple Duck pouch. We wanted to share our top tools for an exotic nurse in practice and we would love to see how other people have been using theirs as well!

- \* **Laser thermometer** - particularly good for checking reptiles and enclosure temperatures
- \* **Pet remedy wipes or spray** - invaluable tool that works on a variety of species using natural calming ingredients
- \* **Tongue depressor** - handy for dental procedures or protecting your fingers from animals with serrated teeth
- \* **Paper straw** - works very well for incisor burrs in small animals, preventing traumatizing the gums & tongue
- \* **Dosing catheter** - very handy for administering drugs
- \* **Plastic dressing forceps** - particularly handy for holding tongues during intubation
- \* **Various pens & highlighters** - to mark when drugs are due on hospital charts & felt pens/pencils to label slides
- \* **Pocket calculator** - great for calculating drug doses
- \* **Eye lubricant** - useful during anaesthesia and in recovery
- \* **Non sterile forceps and nursing scissors**
- \* **Recovery/assisted feeding syringes**
- \* **Hand sanitizer**
- \* **Small nail clippers**

