

***Curriculum Vitae***  
**Richard Gregory Burkett DVM**  
**Diplomate ABVP Avian**

**A. Education**

North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine  
Raleigh NC USA  
*Attended* August 1989 - May 1993  
*Graduated* May 1993  
*Degree* Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

North Carolina State University  
Raleigh NC USA  
*Attended* August 1982 - December 1986  
*Graduated* December 1986  
*Degree* Bachelor of Science Biology

Lenoir Community College  
Kinston NC USA  
*Attended* August 1981 - May 1982  
*No degree earned*

**B. Post-DVM Training**

Preparation for board certification examinations in avian specialty practice given by the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners included 12 months of reading, reviewing, and studying all aspects of avian medicine, surgery, care, and behavior. I sat for and passed the examinations in November 2002, earning Diplomate status in the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in Avian Practice; at that time a status that could only be claimed by fewer than 100 veterinarians.

Annually I exceed state requirements in continuing education credit, attending conferences and seminars in my field of expertise. I log more than 25 credit hours annually in the field of avian medicine and surgery with additional 3-5 credit hours attending wet labs.

**C. Publications (professional)**

“A New Technique for Psittacine Feather Imping: Indications and Considerations”, Poster, in *Proceedings of the Association of Avian Veterinarians 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Expo August 17-19, 2004, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA*, pp.385-388.

**D. Publications (non-professional)**

“The Utilization of Veterinarians in the Retail Store” in *PSM - Pet Supplies Marketing 1997 Red Book of Pet Store Management*, pp.12-14, Fancy Publications, 1997.

“Aging in Psittacines” in *Bird Talk Magazine*, pp.56-61, Fancy Publications, July, 1997.

“A Case for Specialization” in *Pet Product News*, Fancy Publications August, 1996.

**E. Memberships**

- Avian Welfare Committee August 2007 - Present
- American Board of Veterinary Practitioners 2002 - Present
- NCSU Friends of the Library 2001 - Present

- Association of Avian Veterinarians 1989 - Present
- American Veterinary Medical Association 1993 - Present
- American Federation of Aviculture 1984 - 2001
- Raleigh-Durham Caged Bird Society 1982 - Present
- World Parrot Trust 1994 - 1997
- North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association 1993 -1997
- Mid-Atlantic States Association of Avian Veterinarians 1990 - 1996
- Student Chapter American Veterinary Medical Association 1989 - 1993
- International Aviculturists Society 1992 - 1994
- Bird Clubs of North Carolina Board of Directors 1990 - 1992
- Phi Theta Kappa (Honorary Society) 1981-1982

### **F. Leadership Roles in Veterinary Organizations**

#### *Founding Board Member of the Avian Welfare Committee Established August 2007*

The Avian Welfare Committee was formed by members of the Association of Avian Veterinarians to determine the current status of the pet bird population with concentration on rescue, sanctuary, and foster organizations. We are working to establish standards of care for avian species in these organizations as well as for individual pet bird owners, with focus on teaching foraging concepts, appropriate housing, and proper nutrition.

#### *Class Representative Wildlife, Avian, & Zoo Medicine Club 1989 - 1993*

I assisted with the organization and maintenance of meetings and announcement boards to inform members of current happenings within our organization. I helped to arranged speakers to address our group. I recruited, organized, and trained volunteers to monitor and care for the wildlife facilities on campus. In addition, I was the liaison for other related groups such as national student organizations and the student members of the Association of Avian Veterinarians.

### **G. Community Activities**

#### *Public Speaking Engagements*

I have been invited to speak at bird club meetings, rescue organizations, and other pet bird groups on many different topics of avian care. I also assisted with the planning and presentation of a full-day seminar including a wet lab attended by pet bird owners, breeders, veterinary students and other bird enthusiasts.

#### *Fund Raisers*

Annually from 1992 to 1997 I sponsored and organized a fund raising event to generate awareness for the need of continuing research in the field of avian medicine. All of the proceeds raised were donated to several university research groups to help fund their ongoing research in this field.

#### *Scholarships*

I established a student scholarship in the name of my avian private practice. In 1994, 1995, and 1996, I donated funds raised during fund raising events to students, chosen by the College of Veterinary Medicine, interested in furthering their education in the field of avian medicine. The money was to be used for externships or continuing education conferences related to this field.

#### *Volunteer Laboratory Assistant*

In 1991 and 1992 I participated in a student program to provide assistance in wet labs for the instructors. I did this for the Association of Avian Veterinarians Annual Conference and the Mid-Atlantic States Association of Avian Veterinarians Annual Conference. I helped

with the equipment set up and assisted the lab participants with equipment usage and laboratory techniques. The labs were 'Basic Techniques', 'Advance Techniques', 'Avian Endoscopy', 'Advanced Avian Endoscopy', and 'Soft Tissue Surgery'.

#### Volunteer Aviary Position

In conjunction with the National Audubon Society and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, I participated in a volunteer program working on the Puerto Rican Parrot Conservation Project from February 1987 through April 1987. My position involved aviary cleaning and maintenance, captive parrot care and feeding, captive parrot observation and documentation, nursery care and maintenance, and aviary traffic flow and control. I also participated in blind studies observing and documenting the activities of wild Puerto Rican parrots as well as inspecting nests of wild pairs, collecting data on chicks, eggs, and parents in the wild. I also participated in a captive study involving artificial insemination.

#### H. Synopsis of Clinical Practice

Avian Veterinary Services Clinic

3039 University Drive

Durham NC 27707 USA

(919) 490-3001

(919) 403-0218 - FAX

Self-employed

*Employment Dates:* August 2003 - Present

*Hours worked per week:* 70

*Hours worked per week avian:* 40

*Job description:*

My practice consists exclusively avian patients. As owner of the practice, 20% of my time is spent in practice management. My clinical responsibilities include medical and surgical case management and treating avian emergencies; I handle all of my own emergency cases. Being the only avian practice in the area, a large portion of my caseload is referrals; the remainder of my client base is generated from the customers of our bird shop, The Birdie Boutique, Inc. In addition to the medical services that I provide, I offer behavioral counseling, bird care and handling consultations and professional consultations for colleagues.

My caseload consists of 35-40 cases per week, with 25% being complex cases and the remainder being a mix of simple cases and well-bird examinations and work ups.

Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures include and are not limited to rigid endoscopy, contrast radiography, bone marrow aspirates, air sac cannula placement, beak repair, orthopedic procedures, and abdominal surgery.

Four Paws Animal Clinic Avian Health Care Services

1216 Raleigh Road

Chapel Hill NC 27514 USA

(919) 942-1788

*Supervisor:* Melanie A Smith DVM

*Employment Dates:* March 2000 – July 2003

*Hours worked per week:* 40

*Hours worked per week avian:* 40.

*Job description:*

As an associate in a two doctor practice, I was responsible for all clinical practice on avian patients. Approximately 35% of the 25-30 cases per week that I saw were well bird annual visits and vaccinations. The remainder of the cases was clinically ill birds, trauma patients, and surgical cases. I was responsible for all of the avian emergencies. Special

diagnostic and therapeutic techniques that I performed included crop gavage feeding, air sac cannula placement, nebulization, contrast radiography, and nasal flushes.

My special interest is endoscopy. I had approximately 25 cases of diagnostic endoscopies including abdominal exploratory laparoscopies, tracheobronchoscopies, rhinoscopies, cloacoscopies, and endoscopies of the esophagus, crop, and proventriculus. I performed approximately 15 soft tissue surgical procedures including liver biopsies, kidney biopsies, crop biopsies, engluvotomies, salpingohysterectomies, tumor removals, and cloacal prolapse repairs. I performed approximately 9 orthopedic procedures including external fixatures, intramedullary pinning, and beak repairs.

The Birdie Boutique Inc  
3039 University Drive  
Durham NC 27707 USA  
(919) 490-3001

(919) 403-0218 - FAX

*Supervisor:* Michelle A. Ripple

*Employment Dates:* July 1998 - March 2000

*Hours worked per week:* 50

*Hours worked per week avian:* 50

*Job description:*

As staff veterinarian I was responsible for a breeding facility containing over 400 birds covering 40 psittacine species. I was also responsible for the health and well-being of all babies in the nursery. At any one time throughout the year there were 50-100 babies in the nursery covering more than 40 psittacine species.

I was responsible for design and implementation of nursery management and flock management techniques to prevent disease outbreaks. I was also responsible for diagnosing and treating all problems and illnesses in the nursery and breeding flock.

I performed exploratory laparoscopy on more than 300 birds to determine sex, breeding condition, general health, and use as a diagnostic tool. I had approximately 12 orthopedic cases that required external fixation or intramedullary pinning. I performed approximately 6 beak repairs. I had approximately 18 cases of soft tissue surgery. I managed approximately 120 cases of illness attributed to infectious disease organisms.

During the dates of July 15, 1998 through October 15, 1998 I was not engaged in private practice. My license to practice veterinary medicine had been suspended for 90 days by the North Carolina Board of Veterinary Medicine for practicing medicine in an uninspected facility. During these three months I was able to practice on my own birds at The Birdie Boutique, Inc.

Avian Veterinary Services  
3033 University Drive  
Durham NC 27707 USA  
Self-employed

*Employment Dates:* June 1993 - July 1998

*Hours worked per week:* 60

*Hours worked per week avian:* 40

*Job description:*

My practice was exclusively avian patients. As owner of the practice, 25% of my time was spent in practice management. My clinical responsibilities included medical and surgical case management and treating avian emergencies. Being the only avian practice within a 35 mile radius, a major portion of my case load was referrals. I also acquired patients that were customers of our bird shop, The Birdie Boutique, Inc.

By the second year of practice, my caseload consisted of 20-25 cases per week, with 10% being complex cases. By the end of the fourth year, I was seeing more than 40 cases per week with approximately 25% being complex cases.

Diagnostic and therapeutic procedures included rigid endoscopy, contrast radiography, bone marrow aspirates, air sac cannula placement, beak repair, orthopedic procedures, and abdominal surgery.

**I. Synopsis of Business Leadership and Experiences**

The Birdie Boutique Inc  
3039 University Drive  
Durham NC 27707 USA  
888-442-8426 – Toll Free  
(919) 490-3001 - Local  
(919) 403-0218 – FAX  
URL <http://www.birdieboutique.com>

*Established* December 12, 1992

*Number of Employees:* 5

I am the co-founder, co-owner, and co-operator of The Birdie Boutique Inc, a bird specialty shop where we raised and sold baby birds for pets. Our goal was to provide customers with healthy well-socialized birds that were raised in an environment of tender loving care. We specialize in educating bird owners and potential owners about the proper care and handling of their pet to ensure birds live their fullest lives and the owners are happy with their companions. I utilize my expertise and training in avian medicine to provide the best medical care possible. I update our employees and our customers with the knowledge that I acquire from attending the continuing education conferences.

Our store is open 7 days per week and we see more than 200 customers on a weekly basis that come in to purchase birds and supplies, to learn about bird care, or to just socialize our babies. Some of the babies we produce ourselves in our own breeding facilities; some are purchased from approved breeders.

We carry more than 2500 different bird care products, toys, and supplies. We were voted the 'Best Specialty Pet Store' by *Pet Product News* in 1996; a prestigious award given to one establishment in competition with thousands of other stores nationwide.

I also design, build, and maintain our business' web site, which have thousands of visitors monthly, and generate additional revenue for our store. I also handle marketing and advertising for The Birdie Boutique.

Diamond Avian Distributors Inc  
5300 NC Hwy 57  
Hurdle Mills NC 27541 USA  
800-353-2473 – Toll Free  
(919) 644-8500 - Local  
(919) 644-8511 – FAX  
URL <http://www.diamondavian.com>

*Established* February 2, 1995

*Number of Employees:* 15

I am the co-founder, co-owner, and co-operator of a wholesale distribution company, Diamond Avian Distributors Inc, which sells and delivers pet bird supplies to more than 500 bird and pet stores nationwide. We have three of our own delivery trucks on the road covering 16 states on the East coast, and we ship packages via common carrier nationwide and internationally. We carry more than 3000 bird care items from more than 100 vendors.

I can provide training to other stores on bird care and sales techniques to increase their revenue. I also design, build, and maintain our company web site. In addition, we produce a catalog of our products that I also design, publish, and distribute. I also handle marketing and developing new customers.

the AviStraint  
4422 Murphy School Road  
Durham NC 27705 USA  
(919) 604-2029 - Local  
(919) 644-8511 – FAX  
URL <http://www.aviststraint.com>

*Established* September 3, 2007

The AviStraint is a specialized avian restraint device that I have designed, developed, and patented. It is currently being mass manufactured and will be offered to the veterinary community in January 2008.

### ***J. Teaching Positions***

#### ***Adjunct Assistant Professor***

North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine, 9/2004 - Present  
Veterinary students spend time in my practice to observe and participate in avian cases as part of their fourth year training program.

#### ***Student Externship Program***

From 1995 to present, I offer an externship program in my private practice to provide students from the College of Veterinary Medicine the opportunity to experience avian medicine in a private practice setting. This externship program is approved and recognized by the Dean at NCSU-CVM. During each 2-4 week program I provided instruction on handling techniques, treatment protocols, diagnostic procedures, and surgical approaches. In addition, the students developed client communication skills and practice management experience. This has been my most rewarding contribution.