

American Association of Avian Pathologists



CAREERS IN AVIAN MEDICINE

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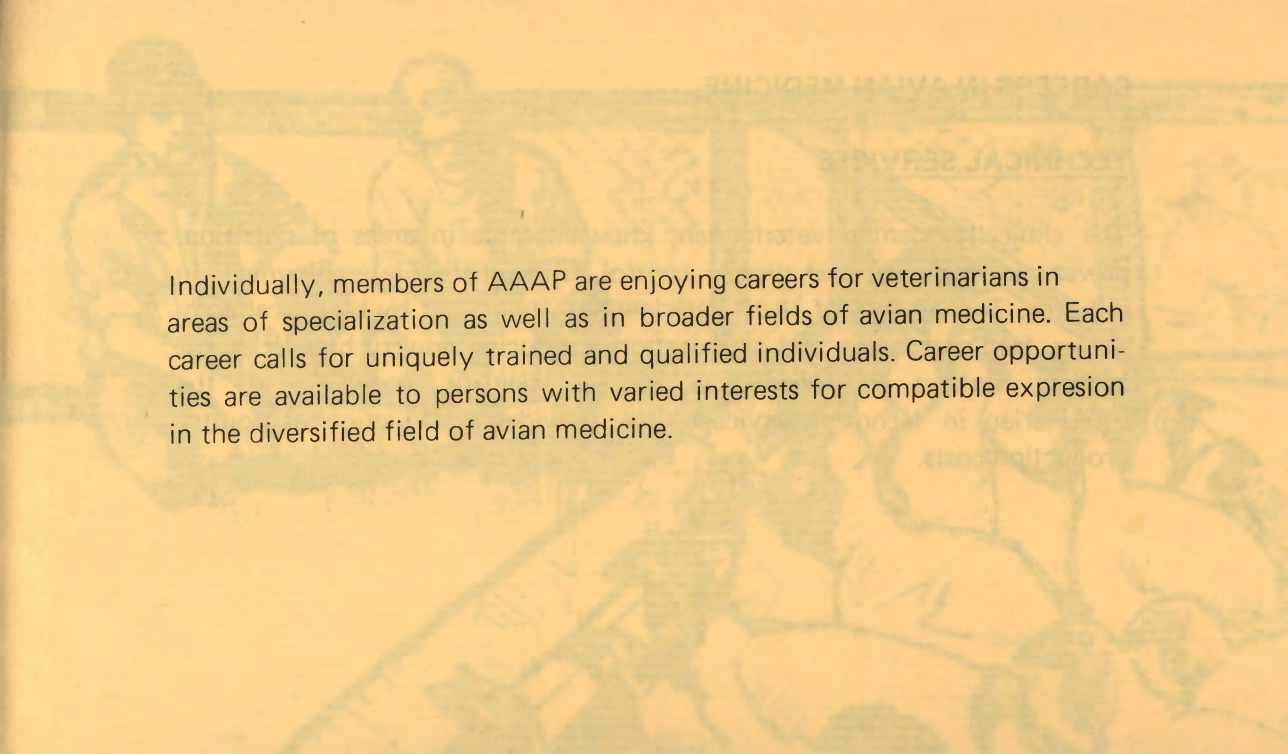
a non-profit organization of scientists in avian medicine-related careers dedicated to the extension of mutual interests and the stimulation of progress through research, the encouragement of basic, advanced and continued education, and the dissemination of scientific information.

INTRODUCTION

This brochure, published by the American Association of Avian Pathologists, is primarily intended to provide information on the broad scope of avian medicine and give insight into the opportunities of this important area of veterinary medicine for students, those considering careers in veterinary medicine, practicing veterinarians, and the faculty in schools of veterinary medicine.

American Association of Avian Pathologists

Collectively, members of AAAP serve as a voice with concern for the health of the poultry industry among governmental, regulatory, and policy-forming agencies. The organization compiles and disseminates information on the incidence of poultry diseases occurring throughout the North American continent. AAAP underwrites continuing education programs by subsidizing regional scientific meetings for its membership and by publishing auto-tutorial programs. Editorial committees of AAAP sponsor and publish the **Avian Diseases** journal quarterly, and current editions of the books, **Diseases of Poultry**, and **Isolation and Identification of Avian Pathogens**.

A faint, stylized illustration in the background shows a person wearing a cap and a lab coat, holding a bird (possibly a chicken) and examining it. The person is on the left, and the bird is on the right. The illustration is light and blends into the overall yellowish-orange background.

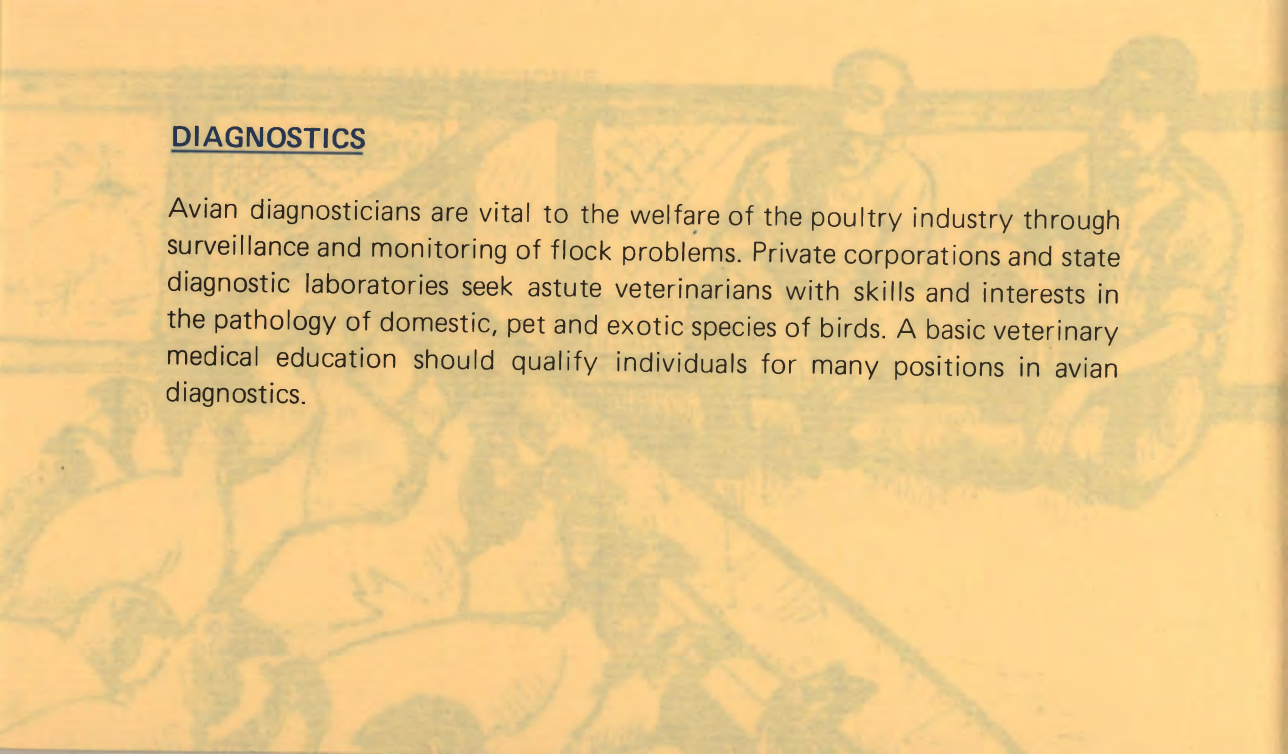
Individually, members of AAAP are enjoying careers for veterinarians in areas of specialization as well as in broader fields of avian medicine. Each career calls for uniquely trained and qualified individuals. Career opportunities are available to persons with varied interests for compatible expression in the diversified field of avian medicine.

CAREERS IN AVIAN MEDICINE

TECHNICAL SERVICES

The clinically-oriented veterinarian, knowledgeable in areas of nutrition, preventive medicine, and disease control, finds profitable employment in industry. The services of these veterinarians are sought by biological companies, feed companies, and organizations producing poultry breeder stock, broilers, turkeys and eggs. The applied scientific knowledge of the veterinarian in technical services often provides a reduction in poultry production costs.





DIAGNOSTICS

Avian diagnosticians are vital to the welfare of the poultry industry through surveillance and monitoring of flock problems. Private corporations and state diagnostic laboratories seek astute veterinarians with skills and interests in the pathology of domestic, pet and exotic species of birds. A basic veterinary medical education should qualify individuals for many positions in avian diagnostics.

TEACHING

Academic institutions are seeking those who find gratification in sharing and disseminating knowledge. Instruction in avian medicine is needed for undergraduates (students in poultry science, wildlife management, and pre-veterinary medicine curricula), professional students in schools of veterinary medicine, graduate students in advanced training, and those in specialized training programs, i.e., meat inspection, regulatory medicine, and extension programs.

RESEARCH

The opportunities for basic and applied research of problems related to avian diseases are numerous in academic and governmental institutions, and in industry. Individuals employed in a research career have specialized training in pharmacology, pathology, microbiology, parasitology, toxicology, endocrinology, epidemiology, or other specialized fields. The need for new methods of prophylaxis, improved diagnostic techniques, and a broader comprehension of old and new emerging disease problems prevails.



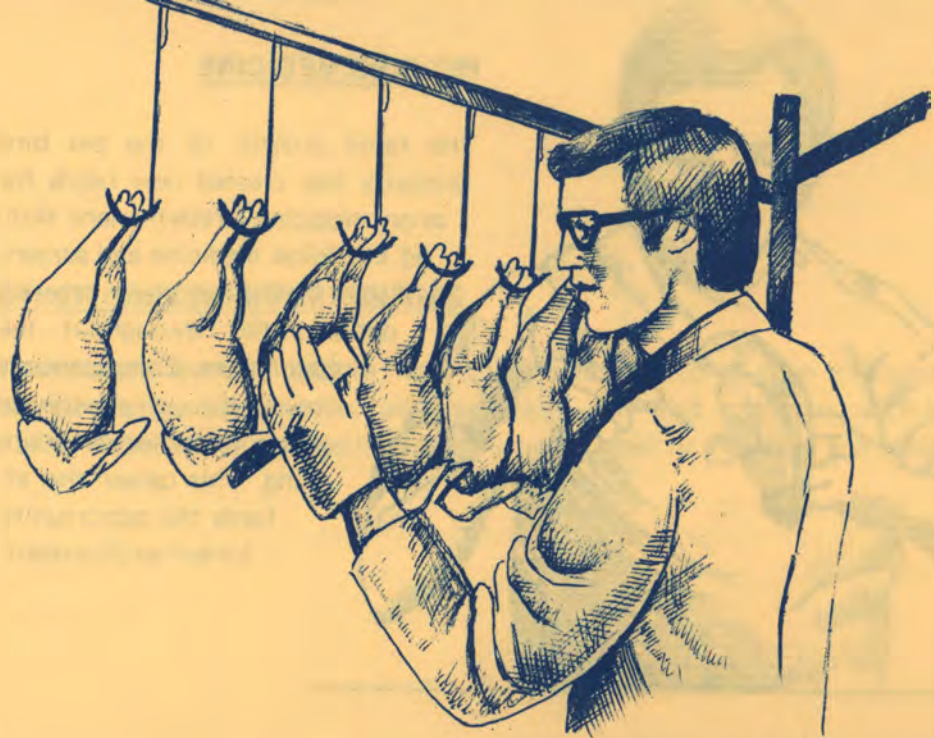


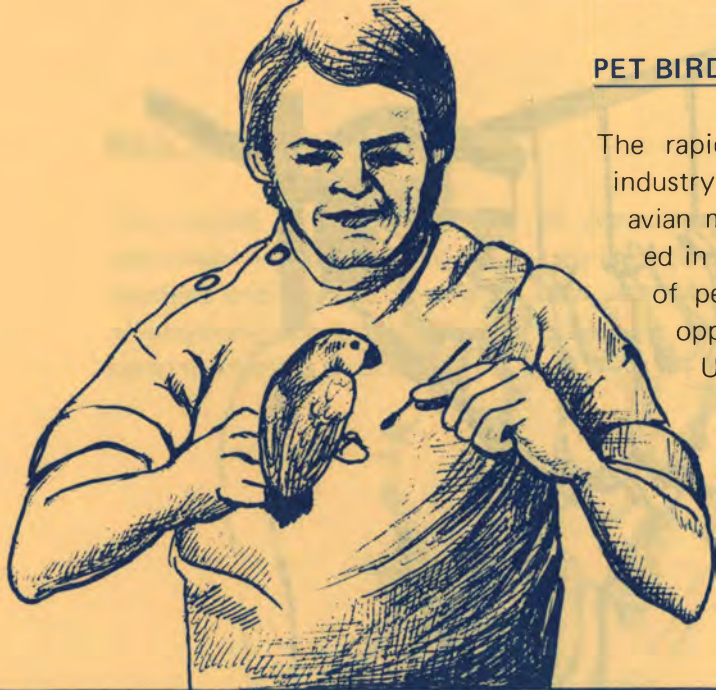
TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

The challenge to find efficacious and improved products for disease prevention and therapeutics is always present. Research and development of avian biologics and therapeutics by dedicated scientists have provided the opportunity for the tremendous growth of the poultry industry in the past two decades.

POULTRY MEAT INSPECTION

The United States Department of Agriculture employs veterinarians to administer and train personnel for the inspection of the more than 3 billion chickens and turkeys slaughtered each year. Many veterinarians find federal employment an attractive career. Intensive training is often provided for persons selecting this career.





PET BIRD MEDICINE

The rapid growth of the pet bird industry has created new needs for avian medicine. Veterinarians skilled in clinical medicine and surgery of pet birds have many practice opportunities throughout the United States. Competence is attained through experience and some advanced training. This career also affords the opportunity for self-employment.

OTHER CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Veterinarians are employed in many other fields related to avian medicine, i.e., extension, consultation, administration, zoo bird medicine, wildlife disease surveillance, managerial positions in the poultry industry, and sales.

COMPENSATION

Compensation, including the fringe benefits, is usually good and varies with the type of career and its geographic location. The demand for personnel with interest and skill in avian medicine provides a favorable job market.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

Profit sharing, savings and pension plans, and medical care programs are fringe benefits available with many careers in avian medicine. Many opportunities for team work and association with people with mutual interests accompany positions in research, teaching, and product development. Travel opportunities are frequent for veterinarians in technical services, consultation work, and key managerial positions.

QUALIFICATIONS

The particular field in which employment is desired will determine the needed qualifications. A good scholastic record in veterinary medicine is essential. Graduate work and advanced degrees are required for research and teaching. Experience is desirable but not essential for some careers; it may, however, determine the opportunities for advancement to key positions with a career. Careers with specialization often require intensive training.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

Information concerning employment in fields of avian medicine may be obtained through the American Veterinary Medical Association placement service, members of the American Association of Avian Pathologists, and individual companies in the poultry industry.

