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## 2021 T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year



### Dr. Y.R.A. (Yvonne) van Zeeland

When nominations closed for the 2021 [T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year](#), a list of 33 outstanding avian veterinarians had been submitted for consideration. The independent Selection Committee narrowed the list to four finalists and the Award recipient, Dr. Yvonne Zeeland, was announced during the Plenary Session at ExoticsCon 2021.

[Yvonne van Zeeland](#), DVM, MVR, PhD, DECZM (Avian Practice, Small Mammal) is an Assistant Professor of Zoological Medicine at the Utrecht University Department of Veterinary Science, Netherlands [\[MORE\]](#)

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An autonomous Selection Committee, consisting of [Association of Avian Veterinarians](#) members, was chaired by Dr. Kenneth Welle, Professor and Chief of the Zoological Medicine Service at the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine.



### **About T.J. Lafeber**

Dr. T.J. Lafeber was recognized as a pioneer in companion bird medicine and the human-companion bird bond. His concern for the health and welfare of his avian patients led him to develop medical treatments, diagnostic techniques, and nutritionally balanced foods. Dr. Lafeber's lectures were infused with his caring demeanor and enthusiasm, inspiring students and veterinarians alike to advance the fledgling field of companion bird medicine. The Caring Hands Award statue (*shown above*) is a bronze cast of Dr. Lafeber's hands and his most beloved avian patient, the budgerigar.