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2023 T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year

Dr. Michelle Hawkins

When nominations closed for the 2023 T.J. Lafeber Avian Practitioner of the Year, a list of 21 outstanding avian veterinarians had been submitted for consideration. The independent Selection Committee narrowed the list to three finalists and the Award recipient, Dr. Michelle Hawkins, was announced during the Plenary Session at ExoticsCon 2023.

Michelle Hawkins, DVM, DABVP (Avian Practice) is a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology at the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California (UC), Davis, an Associate Director of the UC Davis One Health Institute Leadership Team, and the Director of the California Raptor Center. [MORE]
The autonomous Selection Committee, consisting of Association of Avian Veterinarians members, was chaired by Dr. Kenneth Welle.

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.