

AVS Free Webinar Series

TOPIC: RESPONSIBLE PET BIRD OWNERSHIP



Dr Trent Van Zanten is currently a veterinarian with Jurong Bird Park and has been with the park since 2019. In his role, he manages the medical care of the hornbills, birds of paradise, breeding population of parrots, and the neonate birds at the Breeding and Research Centre. He has strong interest in avian and herpetological medicine, endoscopy, paediatrics and surgery. Prior to this, Dr Trent worked in exotic animal practices in Melbourne, Australia. His love for wildlife also comes from having a background and interest in both aviculture and herpetoculture, where he has kept and bred a range of large parrots, snakes and lizards back home in Australia.

Through his work, Dr Trent is committed to preserving wildlife and strives to provide ongoing contributions to research, ex-situ and in-situ conservation projections, and educating colleagues and the public on what he has learned over time. He believes in always keeping an open mind, that we should never stop learning, and that the pursuit of one's passion will always see success.

Dr Trent graduated in 2015 from the University of Melbourne with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and Bachelor of Science degrees (Veterinary Health and Disease).

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Dr Jessica Lee is a conservation ornithologist and currently the Assistant Vice-President of Conservation & Research at Mandai Nature, a Singapore based non-profit conservation organisation focusing on advancing efforts on nature conservation and climate change in Singapore and Asia. In her role, she manages Mandai Nature's avian conservation programmes across Singapore and Southeast Asia, with the aim of growing and strengthening regional conservation partner networks as well as to build their conservation capacities. Dr Jessica is also one of the lead coordinators for the Helmeted Hornbill Working Group and Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group under IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC), both of which are hosted by Mandai Nature. Part of her work also looks at how biodiversity can be conserved and co-exist within ever-changing urban landscapes. Dr Jess emphasizes the need for all to never let one's four walls restrict your passions and to always maximise opportunities you get. If you want to do something, always pursue it.