

## Curriculum Vitae

Neil Forbes is a qualified veterinary surgeon, having gained a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours BVet Med, from the Royal Veterinary College in 1983. Since that time he has been in general practice, having practised on small animals (including birds) since joining Moffit, Murray Robinson M'sRCVS in Sedburgh Cumbria in 1983, then Lansdown Veterinary Surgeons in 1984. He gained his Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Specialist Status Zoo & Wildlife Medicine (**Avian**), in 1992. He lectures to bird keepers, graduate and post graduate students in the UK, Europe, Middle East, China, South Africa & USA on a regular basis, on various aspects of zoo, wildlife, exotic pets and avian medicine, his main interest being the husbandry, breeding, medicine and surgery of birds. He has published more than 88 scientific papers in peer reviewed scientific journals and written or contributed to 38 books.

Neil has been a major contributor and editor of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association 'Manual of Raptors Pigeons and Waterfowl'. In 1995 he successfully completed his Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Fellowship examinations in 'Exotic Bird Medicine'. In 1996 I became a Diplomat of the European College of Avian Medicine and Surgery (ECAMS), this later changed to the European College of Zoological Medicine (ECZM). In time becoming President of European College of Zoological Medicine and then latterly the President of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (the governing body of all European Veterinary Specialists).

He was a Senior lecturer and visiting Fellow in the Department of Clinical Veterinary Science at Bristol University Vet School, with responsibility for avian medicine and surgery from 2000 - 2011.

He has provided Key Note Lectures, Wetlabs and Masterclass presentations by invitation to international avian veterinary conferences in the UK, Europe, South Africa, Qatar, Australia China and USA, on the subjects such as avian medicine, including diagnostics, medicine, surgery, husbandry and welfare, as well as aspects of exotic pet medicine, zoo health management, expert witness and forensic veterinary services and biosecurity, hygiene and infection control.

I have advised DEFRA, RSPCA, RSPB and various police authorities on aspects of avian and wildlife law. I have acted for Claimant and Insurance Company in a number of 3<sup>rd</sup> party liability insurance claims.

Apart from avian medicine I have also published internationally and lecture regularly on Forensic Avian Veterinary Medicine and the 'Role of the Veterinary Surgeon as an Expert Witness'. I have acted as a Veterinary Expert Witness (appointed by both prosecution and defence teams), in my field of expertise for over 30 years. I have never received critical comment from any judiciary.

My main employment was as head of the Avian and Exotic Animal department at Great Western Referrals based in Swindon, a multidisciplinary Specialist Staffed Training, Research and Referral Centre which opened in Swindon from 2004 – 2017, at which point I left commercial referral practice, to pursue voluntary conservation efforts for vultures, whilst continuing my fee earning consulting and clinical duties, including zoo inspection in Ireland and UK, the International provision of post graduate veterinary training, together with voluntary roles, acting as Charity Trustee for the Manfred Horstmann Vulture Conservation

Trust and the Bella Moss Foundation and Veterinary Advisor to both: Health and Hygiene and Veterinary Practice Hygiene.

**During his career, he received the following awards:**

- 1983 Ag Vet Trophy
- 1983 Centenary Award
- 1991 Mackellar Award
- 1995 FRCVS
- 1996 Diploma European College of Avian Medicine & Surgery
- 1998 Fellow Royal Society of Medicine
- 2002 Melton Award from BSAVA
- 2004 Lafeber – avian practitioner award (first recipient outside USA)
- 2005 William Hunting Award from BVA
- 2006 Registered Forensic Practitioner
- 2010 Helga Gerlach Senior Award for Excellence in Avian Medicine (first ever recipient)
- 2013 Vets Now MAD (making a difference) Awards – best clinical service within Vets Now
- 2016 Vets Now MAD (making a difference) Awards – best clinical innovation within Vets Now
- 2023 RCVS Specialist Emeritus Zoo and Wildlife (avian)
- 2023 British Veterinary Zoological Society Life Time Achievement Award for Meritorious contributions to Zoological Medicine.