

THE BULLETIN BIRD

APRIL 2026

HARRISON'S BIRD FOODS NEWSLETTER

From The Doctor's Desk

By Bianca Murphy, DVM, Dipl ABVP (Avian)

Atherosclerosis is a progressive, irreversible vascular disease that affects companion psittacines of all species, with African grey parrots, Amazons, macaws, and cockatiels consistently overrepresented. Clinical signs vary depending on lesion location and can include neurologic events, GI changes, exercise intolerance, respiratory distress, and sudden death; seizures and stroke-like events may be indistinguishable without imaging. Diagnosis relies on non-invasive imaging, primarily radiography and echocardiography, with management tailored to whether disease is limited to the vasculature or has progressed to cardiac involvement and congestive heart failure. Nutrition plays a preventive role in reducing long-term vascular risk, but dietary change should not be relied upon as a sole treatment strategy for established disease. In birds with active cardiovascular disease, dietary transition should be deferred until the patient is clinically stable under veterinary management.



BEHIND THE SCENES

By Kaitlyn Nikirk, DVM, Chair, HBD Student Program

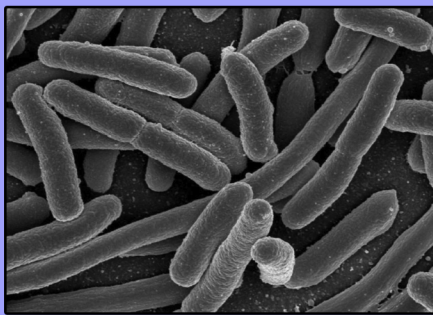
In March, students from around the world gathered virtually for a webinar hosted by the Harrison's Bird Foods Student Program. Students from Mexico, Copenhagen, Taiwan, the Philippines, and thirteen US veterinary schools had the opportunity to learn about the most common avian emergencies they might see when they graduate. The group was fortunate to have a world-renowned avian emergency veterinarian, Dr. Tia Greenberg, as the speaker. This webinar featured the basics of performing a safe and effective physical exam and meeting the unique needs of avian companions, especially when treating avian trauma, respiratory distress, and stabilization of critical patients.



TOXIN ALERT

From the Organic Consumers Association (organicconsumers.org)

The use of antibiotics in agriculture is a major cause of the increasing number of untreatable infections across our country. Scientists publishing in *Frontiers in Microbiology* recently showed that the most common species of multi-drug-resistant bacteria from hospitals are not only resistant to multiple antibiotic classes, but also to high concentrations of the weedkiller glyphosate.



Drug-resistant foodborne illnesses are spreading through meat from factory farms, where medically important antibiotics are routinely fed to healthy animals under the guise of "prevention" (now that using them for growth-promotion is prohibited). Fungicides and herbicides like glyphosate are making things worse, spawning antimicrobial resistant germs — including deadly yeasts and molds — that contaminate and live on fruits, vegetables, and grains, or travel from farm runoff into tap water.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11445186>

<https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/10/4/950>

An Interesting Tidbit

Some (relatively) good news:

The Environmental Working Group (ewg.org) has released its 2026 list of "Fifteen Clean" foods that test at low levels of pesticide contamination.

This year's winners include:

- Pineapple,
- Sweet Corn
- Papaya,
- Sweet Peas
- Asparagus,
- Cauliflower,
- Watermelon,
- Mangoes,
- Bananas,
- Carrots and
- Kiwi.



The Environmental Working Group: ewg.org

HBD at International ICARE Conference

The Avifood company exhibited Harrison's products at the ICARE 2026 conference in Lisbon, Portugal recently. Shown are the company's representatives, Matthias Janeczek, a recent German veterinary school graduate, and his father, Dr. med. vet. Friedrich Janeczek, Avifood co-owner and consulting veterinarian. ICARE has become the largest avian and exotic veterinary conference in the world, with more than 900 participants in 2026.

