

2026 UPAV Annual Conference

23-25 November | Melbourne



UNUSUAL PET
AND AVIAN
VETERINARIANS

AVA

Acknowledgement of Country

The AVA acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Naarm, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present, and to Elders of all First Nations communities.

About the AVA

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the peak professional body representing veterinary professionals and students across Australia. For more than 100 years we have been the united voice of the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians are among Australia's most trusted and respected professionals, dedicated to safeguarding animal health and welfare and supporting the communities they live in.

Our vision is **a thriving veterinary profession**, and our purpose is **to build a vibrant future for veterinary professionals**.

At the AVA we champion the veterinary community, advance professional excellence, foster connectivity, and deliver exceptional member experiences to achieve our vision of a thriving profession.

<https://www.ava.com.au/>

About Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians

The Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians (UPAV) group fosters discussion on the medicine and surgery of non-traditional companion animals including reptiles, birds, turtles, amphibians, native Australian mammals, rabbits, guinea pigs, rodents, ferrets, fish and even insects or arachnids such as tarantulas.

As licensing laws and lifestyles evolve, many households are choosing pets beyond dogs and cats. This shift has led to a growing demand for veterinarians who are confident and capable in treating species not typically covered in undergraduate training.

UPAV plays a vital role in supporting professional development, strengthening peer connections, and providing leadership in advancing the field of avian, exotic, and unusual pet veterinary practice.

For more information about the Unusual Pet & Avian Veterinarians group, please visit our website:



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About the 2026 UPAV Conference

In 2026 UPAV are teaming up with the Association of Avian Veterinarians, Australasian Committee (AAVAC) to bring you two back-to-back conferences, same state, same city and same venue!

This year UPAV will host three days of high-quality education for veterinarians and vet nurses interested in birds, small mammals and reptiles. The conference has always been a great opportunity for networking as well as providing current information on diagnostics, therapeutics, surgery and medicine for this group of diverse pets.

We are excited and honoured to announce that Associate Professor Dr Vladimír Jekl will be our International Keynote speaker in Melbourne for our 2026 UPAV conference.

Monday 23 November 2026

- 7.30am - 8.15am Conference Registration
- 8.15am - 8.30pm Conference Welcome
- 8.30am - 5.30pm Nurses Stream
- 8.30am - 5.30pm Masterclass Series
- 7.30am - 5.30pm Exhibition and Trade
- 5.30pm - 7.30pm UPAV Conference Welcome Cocktail Event (onsite)

Tuesday 24 November 2026

- 8.00am - 8.30am Conference Registration
- 8.30am - 5.30pm Scientific Program
- 8.00am - 5.30pm Exhibition and Trade
- 6.30pm - 10.30pm UPAV Conference Dinner & Unusual Quiz (offsite location)

Wednesday 25 November 2026

- 8.00am - 8.30am Conference Registration
- 8.30am - 5.30pm Scientific Program
- 8.00am - 5.30pm Exhibition and Trade
- 5.30pm - 6.30pm Farewell Drinks (onsite)



[Visit the Conference Website](#)



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Location

Melbourne has a unique character, making it a great place to visit. It is always one step ahead of other Australian cities, setting trends in food, entertainment, arts and culture.

The city has an unrivalled calendar of major events, progressive dining scene, hidden laneways and art spaces, and unique regional escapes are just a short drive away.

Melbourne's multicultural atmosphere is set amongst Victoria-era buildings and gorgeous parklands. The city centre is a buzzing commercial heart that's also home to museums, theatres and galleries – all easily navigated via Melbourne's iconic tram network.

From rooftop bars and cosmopolitan cafes to spectacular sporting events, it is a city that has made blending business with pleasure a sophisticated art form and a way of life.

Melbourne's airport has more than 300 international and over one thousand domestic arrivals per week, providing superb access from across Australia and the world. Integrated public transport and centrally located facilities combine to make Melbourne the perfect destination.

Extend your conference visit and discover the diversity and beauty of [regional Victoria](#), from world-class wineries to natural springs, coastal villages, peninsulas and alpine towns.

[Visit the UPAV
Conference website](#)



Venue & Accommodation

Novotel Melbourne on Collins welcomes you to experience contemporary style 4.5-star comfort in the heart of Melbourne's CBD.

Located on fashionable Collins Street, Novotel Melbourne on Collins provides guests with access to a range of attractions such as the MCG, Federation Square, Marvel Stadium, the Princess and Regent Theatres and so much more, all at our doorstep.

Discounted Accommodation at Novotel Melbourne on Collins*

Conference attendees can enjoy special discounted rates at the Novotel Melbourne on Collins. Rooms are limited*, so book now and save.

Terms and Conditions

- 15% discount on Accommodation rooms at Novotel Melbourne on Collins.
- Guests can select their requested stay dates and apply their Accor Live Limitless membership or sign up for free.
- 15% discount is applied on reservations that are flexible conditions meaning they can cancel the reservation 1 day prior without any penalty.
- Guests are welcome to book whichever rate best suits them. If guests find a lower price online, they are more than welcome to make that booking directly at their own convenience.

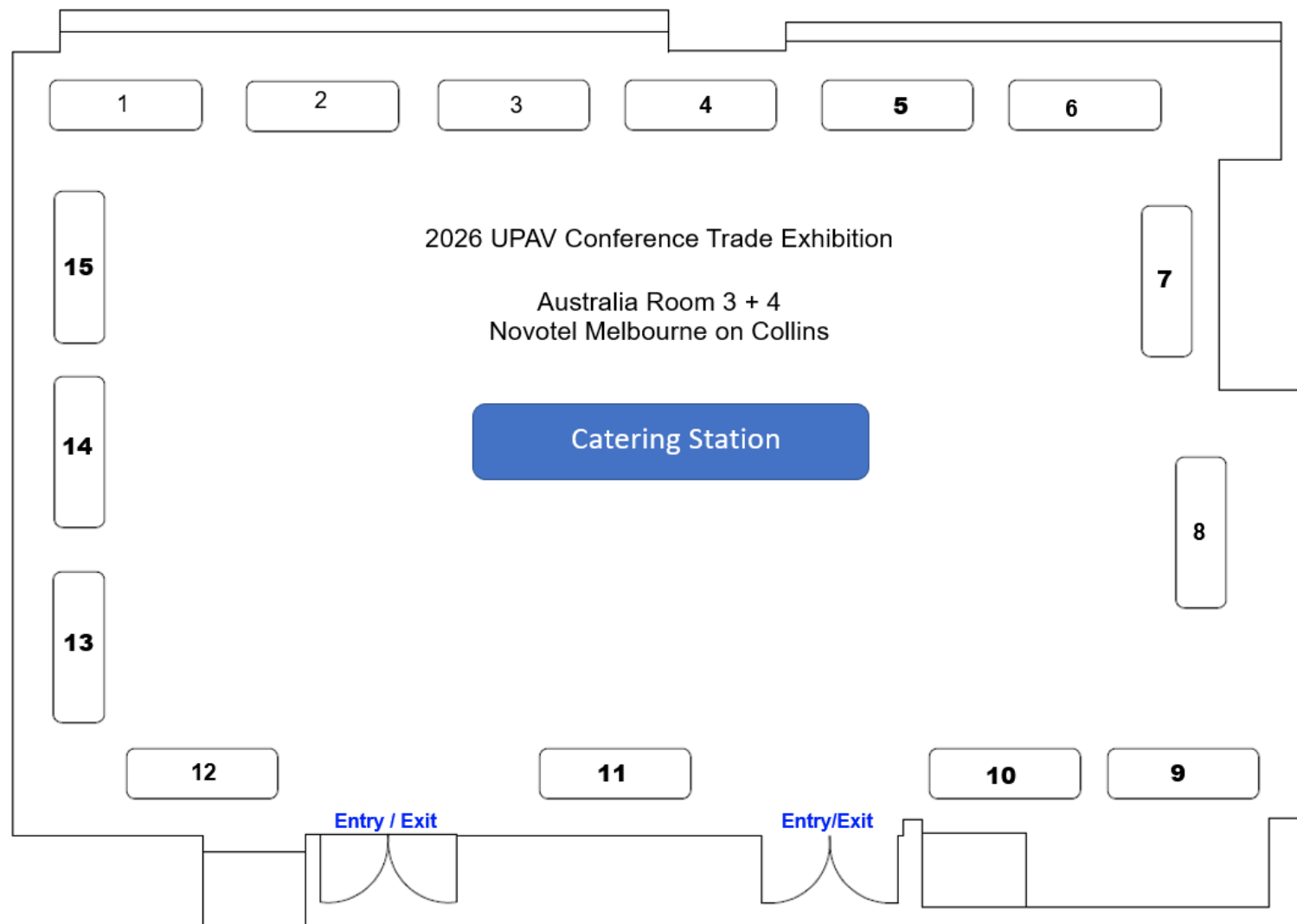
Cancellation terms: Flexible terms and conditions as per below:

No cancellation charge applies prior to 14:00 (local time), up to 1 day prior to arrival. Beyond that time, the first night will be charged.

**Subject to availability*

[Book Accommodation](#)

Exhibition Floorplan



Why it's worth sponsoring and exhibiting

Maximise your visibility to your key target market by becoming a sponsor of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026.

Sponsorship options provide:

- Brand visibility
- Captured target audience
- Opportunity to promote and discuss your products during the conference with your target market
- Cost effective, results driven marketing
- Potential to increase your sales
- Cost effective alternative to mainstream advertising

Exhibition Area

The UPAV Conference sessions and exhibition will be conveniently located adjacent to one another, utilising the Australia Room—a spacious, pillarless ballroom featuring floor-to-ceiling windows and abundant natural light.

The exhibition area will serve as the central networking hub of the conference, providing delegates with valuable opportunities to engage directly with sponsors and exhibitors throughout the event.

To maximise exhibitor exposure and delegate interaction, all catering breaks, including morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea, will be held within the exhibition area.

Exhibition and Trade Opening times

Monday 23 November - Exhibitor Set Up 6.30am

Monday 23 November - 8.00am - 5.30pm

Tuesday 24 November - 8.00am - 5.30pm

Wednesday 25 November - 8.00am - 5.30pm



Sponsorship Opportunities

Maximise your visibility to your key target market by becoming a sponsor of the 2026 Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference.

Major Sponsor

\$6,500 excl. GST – one opportunity

Maximise your visibility to your target audience by investing in our major sponsorship, benefits begin now and continue post conference.

- Acknowledgement as the UPAV Conference Major Sponsor
- Entitlement to use the phrase “Major sponsor of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026”
- Two (2) trestle tables in the exhibition space in the industry exhibition
- Preferential treatment regarding allocation of exhibition space within the industry exhibition
- Four (4) full exhibitor registrations including attendance at scientific sessions, exhibition, conference dinner, cocktail function and farewell drinks
- The opportunity to address the conference delegates on for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- Two (2) full page advertisements in the conference electronic proceedings
- Two (2) x conference related articles in conference e-newsletter in the lead up to conference
- Logo and branding on conference promotion and selected conference marketing materials, including conference website and member communications
- Verbal acknowledgement (opportunities to be determined)

Silver Sponsor

\$5,000 excl. GST – limited opportunities available

- Acknowledgement as UPAV Conference Silver Sponsor
- Entitlement to use the phrase “Silver sponsor of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026”
- 1 x exhibition trestle table
- Logo and brand recognition on UPAV conference website, selected conference marketing materials and selected conference communications to UPAV members
- Verbal acknowledgement
- Two (2) conference registrations. Includes:
 - 2 x Cocktail function tickets
 - 2 x Conference dinner tickets
 - 2 x Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
 - 2 x Access to scientific sessions

Bronze Sponsor

\$1,360 excl. GST – limited opportunities available

Bronze Sponsorship is available as an add-on to an Exhibition Table booking or other sponsorship opportunities listed here.

- Acknowledgement as UPAV Conference Bronze sponsor
- Logo and brand recognition on UPAV conference website, selected conference marketing materials and selected conference communications to UPAV members
- Verbal acknowledgement
- One (1) conference registration Includes:
 - 1 x Cocktail function ticket
 - 1 x Conference dinner ticket
 - 1 x Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
 - 1 x Access to scientific sessions

Exhibition Table

Monday 23 November – Wednesday 25 November 2026

\$2,250 excl. GST – limited opportunities available

In 2026 we are again presenting a trade table exhibition.

Delegates will take session breaks in this area (morning teas, lunches and afternoon teas will be served here) giving exhibitors and sponsors valuable delegate engagement opportunities.

- One (1) trestle table with two chairs in the industry exhibition
- One (1) inclusive registration. Includes:
 - 1 x Cocktail function ticket
 - 1 x Conference dinner ticket
 - 1 x Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea
 - 1 x Access to scientific sessions
- Opportunity to display signage in your designated space. Please note: No staples, sticky or masking tape, glues, pins or velcro will be allowed on the walls. Free standing signage only.
- Company logo on selected conference promotion and marketing materials

Note: Additional exhibitor registrations and social event tickets will be available for purchase, details will be included in the exhibitor manual which will be distributed prior to the conference.



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International Keynote Speaker Sponsorship

\$5,450 excl. GST - one opportunity

Each year the UPAV Conference **International Keynote Speaker** is always one of the most anticipated highlights. By sponsoring the International Keynote Speaker. This prestigious opportunity offers premium visibility across the full scientific program, positioning your brand alongside a globally recognised expert while providing meaningful engagement with a highly targeted audience of veterinary professionals.

- A minimum of 3 hours of keynote sessions throughout the scientific program
- Acknowledgement as the international keynote speaker sponsor
- Entitlement to use the phrase “International keynote speaker sponsor of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026”
- Opportunity to display a pull up banner during sponsored international keynote speaker plenary sessions
- Logo and branding on conference promotion and selected conference marketing materials, including conference website and member communications
- Opportunity for an appropriately qualified representative to address the audience during a session for a maximum of five (5) minutes

We are excited and honoured to announce that **Associate Professor Dr Vladimír Jekl** will be our International Keynote speaker in Melbourne for our 2026 UPAV conference.



Vladimir Jekl

**Associate Professor, MVDr., Ph.D., Dip. ECZM (Small Mammal), DACEPM
EBVS® European Recognised Specialist in Small Mammal Medicine and Surgery
Certified Practitioner for Small Mammal Medicine and Surgery (CZ)**

Vladimír Jekl graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Brno (VETUNI Brno), Czech Republic, in 2002. In 2006, he obtained a PhD in dentistry of exotic companion mammals. He has devoted his professional career exclusively to exotic animal medicine and has been an EBVS® European Recognised Specialist in Small Mammal Medicine and Surgery since 2009. In 2016, he was the Associate Professor at VETUNI Brno. Since 2017, he has been the co-owner of the Jekl & Hauptman Veterinary Clinic, a referral center dedicated exclusively to exotic companion mammals. He is also affiliated with the Department of Pharmacology and Pharmacy at VETUNI Brno.

[Click here to to Sponsor or Exhibit](#)

Scientific Stream Sponsor

Tuesday 24 November or Wednesday 25 November 2026

\$2,250 excl. GST – two opportunities

Align your brand directly with a highly targeted audience of veterinarians with a keen interest in birds, small mammals and reptiles through the Scientific Stream Sponsorship. This exclusive opportunity places your organisation at the heart of the session, offering premium visibility, delegate engagement, and the chance to position your brand as a valued contributor to the conference program.

- The opportunity to address the conference delegates on the morning of your designated day for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- One (1) full page advertisement in the conference electronic proceedings
- Company signage at the entrance to the room and included in the room (provided by sponsor)
- Holding slide with logo during introduction of speaker
- Acknowledgement by session chairperson
- Opportunity for sponsor representative to attend sessions and welcome delegates as they enter
- Opportunity to hand out upon entry of one piece of marketing material provided in a selected session (100) pieces provided by sponsor).
- Acknowledgement on selected conference marketing materials



Veterinary Nurses Day Sponsorship

Monday 23 November 2026

\$2,250 excl. GST – one opportunity

The vet nurse conference is a one-day stream dedicated to both experienced and non-experienced veterinary nurses wanting to learn and gain more knowledge in avian, unusual pets and wildlife medicine. The conference will be an enjoyable, educational and friendly day where we will strive to ensure each delegate has a great experience, network into the industry and learn about the wonders of our unusual pets, avian and wildlife patients.

This day will offer both formal and casual networking opportunities with the veterinary nurse delegates to visit the exhibitor's displays and mingle with industry representatives and increase your brand awareness.

Inclusions:

- The opportunity to address the Veterinary Nurses delegates on Monday morning for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- One (1) full page advertisement in the conference electronic proceedings
- Company signage at the entrance to the room and included in the room (provided by sponsor)
- Holding slide with logo during introduction of speaker
- Acknowledgement by session chairperson
- Opportunity for sponsor representative to attend sessions and welcome delegates as they enter
- Opportunity to hand out upon entry of one piece of marketing material provided in a selected session (minimum 30 pieces provided by sponsor)
- Acknowledgement on selected conference marketing materials

[Click here to to Sponsor or Exhibit](#)



Social Sponsorship Opportunities

UPAV Conference Welcome Cocktail Event Sponsor

Monday 23 November 2026

5:30pm – 7:30pm | Function Foyer, Novotel Melbourne on Collins

\$2,500 excl. GST - One opportunity

Maximise your visibility to your key target market by sponsoring the UPAV Conference Welcome Cocktail Evening.

Held immediately following the conclusion of the day's sessions, this relaxed and social gathering provides delegates, speakers, sponsors, and exhibitors with the opportunity to connect and unwind in an informal setting. As the exclusive sponsor, your brand will be prominently associated with this popular event, offering excellent visibility and engagement with attendees at the start of the conference.

Inclusions:

- Acknowledgement as the Conference Welcome Cocktail Evening
- Entitlement to use the phrase “Conference Welcome Cocktail Evening sponsor” of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026”
- Opportunity to address the audience during the cocktail function for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- Acknowledgement on the night by the UPAV SIG President
- Opportunity to display signage in the exhibition area and around the catering stations. (Signage must not block or cover other exhibitors’ displays or signage).
- Opportunity to provide a guest gift to all attendees (provided by sponsor)
- Opportunity to upgrade food and beverage package, at sponsor’s cost
- Company logo on conference promotion and selected marketing materials
- Verbal acknowledgement (opportunities to be determined)
- One (1) complimentary ticket to the cocktail evening

[Click here to to Sponsor or Exhibit](#)



Social Sponsorship Opportunities

UPAV Conference Dinner & Unusual Quiz Sponsor

Tuesday 24 November 2026 | 6:30pm – 10.30pm | Surprise location to be revealed!

\$4,000 excl. GST - One opportunity

The social highlight of the conference is the Conference Dinner and the famous Unusual Quiz. The evening starts with welcome drinks, followed by a sit-down dinner for approx. 70 guests, with Trivia festivities running over the course of the evening. Position your brand with this highly anticipated and memorable social event.

Inclusions:

- Acknowledgement as the UPAV Conference Dinner & Unusual Quiz Sponsor
- Entitlement to use the phrase “Conference Dinner & Unusual Quiz Sponsor of the Unusual Pet and Avian Veterinarians Conference 2026”
- Opportunity to address the audience towards the end of the evening for a maximum of five (5) minutes
- Acknowledgement by the MC on the night as the Conference Dinner Sponsor
- Acknowledgement on dinner menus
- Company logo on conference promotion and selected marketing materials
- Two (2) conference dinner tickets
- Opportunity to provide a guest gift to all attendees (provided by sponsor)
- Verbal acknowledgement (opportunities to be determined)
- Opportunity to display company signage during dinner (opportunities to be determined)

[Click here to Sponsor or Exhibit](#)



Terms and Conditions

Money Matters

Conditions of sponsorship and exhibition payment

The total amount payable will be required 14 days from booking online and to secure your sponsorship and exhibition package preference. Bookings made after Friday 6 November 2026 will incur a 20% late fee and may not appear on onsite promotional signage.

International Exhibitors

International exhibitors are required to pay the total amount at time of booking.

Public Liability Insurance

The Exhibitor must effect and maintain for the period of the exhibition policies of insurance for: (a) damage to or loss of the property of the Exhibitor and their employees, contractors and agents; (b) public liability, including death injury and loss of property of third parties, including the Organiser for an amount not less than \$10 million for any one occurrence; (c) work cover, workers compensation and employer's liability as required by law.

Payment Methods

1. Tax invoice – an invoice generated when you are making your online booking
2. Credit card – Visa and MasterCard accepted
(Please note there is a 1.75% surcharge on credit card payments)

Cancellation

1. Requests for cancellations must be submitted in writing to events@ava.com.au.
2. If cancellation is accepted, 50% of the contracted cost to exhibit will be retained
3. If cancellation occurs within two (2) months of the commencement of the exhibition 100% of the contracted cost to exhibit will be retained
4. See the Terms and conditions for more information



Booking and Stand Allocation Process

Bookings are to be submitted via the online booking platform. Upon receipt of your booking, you will be issued a confirmation email with further important information about your booking.

In 2026 exhibitor allocations will be made in the following order:

- UPAV Major Sponsor
- Other UPAV Medallion Sponsors
- AVA Corporate Supporters who are exhibiting at the UPAV Conference
- All other companies that wish to exhibit at the UPAV Conference

Terms and Conditions

Please read the terms and conditions before booking.

<https://www.ava.com.au/sponsorship/exhibitors/sponsor-exhibitor-terms-conditions>

Contact

events@ava.com.au

The Australian Veterinary Association
Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street
St Leonards NSW 2065

Visit the Conference
Website

Book Accommodation

Book to Sponsor or
Exhibit

