



## **AAV Position Statement Wildlife Trafficking**

---

The illegal international wildlife trade, also known as wildlife trafficking, is devastating to wild animals, plants and human communities around the world. Wildlife trafficking poses an immediate threat to already critically endangered species, increasing the likelihood of their extinction, and is directly linked to some of the most important underlying causes of biodiversity loss. Wildlife trafficking furthermore poses significant health and safety risks for both humans and animals, by contributing to the spread of infectious, zoonotic, and food-borne diseases. With a multitude of human infectious diseases having their origins in wild animals, putting an end to the illegal trade in wildlife is not only critical for species' conservation, but also to human health.

The Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV) is an international membership organization composed of veterinary professionals who care deeply for all animals, domestic and wild, but especially birds. The AAV is strongly opposed to the illegal wildlife trade and joins with other like-minded organizations to support legislation and regulations to end this practice and help ensure the health of people and animals.

### **Definitions:**

**Wildlife trafficking:** The international or domestic illegal gathering, transportation, and distribution of animals and their derivatives.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth Mackey at <a href="mailto:emackey@aav.org">emackey@aav.org</a> .
--