

About Dr. Gary Gallerstein

Acacia Animal Hospital Director Gary Gallerstein, D.V.M, grew up in San Diego and graduated from the University of California at Davis Veterinary School in 1978, His first postgraduate veterinary experience was in a large specialty group practice in San Francisco. He says of the experience: "It was a wonderful place to start. The many specialists I worked with there greatly enriched my knowledge." He subsequently returned to his native San Diego and spent several years in general practice before acquiring Acacia Animal Hospital in Escondido.

Dr. Gallerstein's primary interest is the medical and surgical care of birds, rabbits, ferrets, and some species of reptiles. However, he still very much enjoys the challenges involved in the care of dogs and cats. They continue to form a major part of his practice.

He has authored three books:

"The Bird Owner's Home Health and Care Handbook"

"The Complete Bird Owners' Handbook", and

"First Aid For Birds" co-authored with Julie Rach

In his professional community, he has served on the boards of The Veterinary Pet Insurance Company, Association of Avian Veterinarians, San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association, and the San Diego Mesa College Animal Health Advisory Board. He frequently attends Continuing Education Meetings and has spoken at numerous local, state, and national veterinary medical conferences.

He is a member of several veterinary organizations, including: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), Association of Reptilian & Amphibian Veterinarians (ARAV), Association of Avian Veterinarians (AAV), California Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), Hidden Valley Obedience Club, Hookbill Hobbyists, House Rabbit Society, North County Aviculturists, and San Diego County Veterinary Medical Association (SDCVMA).

Active within the Escondido community, Dr. Gallerstein is a member of the Escondido Chamber of Commerce, California Center for the Arts, Escondido, and has served on the board of the Escondido Humane Society and First Night Escondido.

He and his wife, Laura, have three children: Laura, Eric, and Mitchell. His hobbies include coaching his children's baseball teams, running, hiking, cross-country skiing, and kayaking.

At home the Gallersteins have three pets: "Sparkles", a spayed female yellow Lab, "Blaze", a Heinz 57 variety dog rescued as a puppy five years ago from the devastating fire at the Escondido Humane Society, and "Shetara", a spayed female dilute tortoise shell cat.

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