

# Dr Richard Sim

*Head Veterinarian · Hamilton Zoo*

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A graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine, USA, Dr Richard Sim is the Head Veterinarian at Hamilton Zoo. He started feeding baby birds with a wildlife rehabber in intermediate school, and wildlife has been a part of his life ever since. Before becoming a veterinarian, he worked for a few years doing avian field conservation and ecology work in the western USA, Costa Rica and Hawaii.

Since becoming a veterinarian, a portion of his early career training was a two-year fellowship at a large wildlife hospital in the eastern USA. Otherwise, he has worked in zoos for 15 years and is a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine. While at those zoos, he has been keen to assist local rehabbers with the care of any birds, but especially raptors with orthopaedic issues. Moving to New Zealand in 2022, he is working on growing Hamilton Zoo's role in caring for wildlife of the Waikato region. Kākā and kererū are new-found loves. Wildlife and zoo medicine are all about problem-solving and ingenuity, skills that translate well to wildlife rehabilitation.