

Curriculum Vitae

Amy Bitter, DVM

Pet Hospital of Penasquitos

9888-F Carmel Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92129

I. Personal History and Professional Experience

A. Educational Background

1. Louisiana State University- Baton Rouge, LA; Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, (August 2021-May 2025)
2. Louisiana State University- Baton Rouge, LA; Bachelor of Science, Animal Science, (August 2019-May 2021)
3. Palomar College- San Marcos, CA; (August 2017- May 2019)

B. Employment

1. Associate Veterinarian. Pet Hospital of Penasquitos. San Diego, CA. (June 2025-present)
2. Lafeber Student Representative, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine; Baton Rouge, LA (September 2022- May 2025)
3. Veterinarian Technician, Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital of Louisiana, Metairie, LA (May 2022-Febrary 2024)
4. Student Worker, Dr. Mark Mitchell's Laboratory, Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine; Baton Rouge, LA (May 2020- February 2024)
5. Veterinarian Technician, Surfside Animal Hospital; Oceanside, CA (May 2018-July 2019)

C. Professional Organizations

1. Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians
2. Association of Avian Veterinarians
3. Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians
4. American Veterinary Medical Association
5. California Veterinary Medical Association

D. Honors, Recognitions, and Outstanding Achievements

1. Cum Laude- Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine.
May 2025.
2. Deans Honor Roll- Louisiana State University School of Veterinary
Medicine. August 2021-May 2025
3. Summa Cum Laude- Louisiana State University, May 2021
4. University Medalist- Louisiana State University, May 2021
5. President's Honor Roll- Louisiana State University, May 2021
6. President's Honor Roll- Louisiana State University, December 2020
7. President's Honor Roll- Louisiana State University, May 2020
8. Outstanding First Year Member, Dairy Science Club- Louisiana State
University, April 2020
9. President's Honor Roll- Louisiana State University, December 2019
10. Dean's List- Palomar College, May 2019
11. Dean's List- Palomar College, December 2018
12. Dean's List- Palomar College, May 2018
13. Dean's List- Palomar College, December 2017

II. Publications

A. Research Publications

1. Boykin K., **Bitter A.**, Lex Z., Tuminello J., Mitchell M., February 2025. Characterizing the Roles of Life Stage and Season on the Prevalence of Select Viral Pathogens in *Acheta domesticus* Crickets on a Commercial Cricket Farm in the United States. *Veterinary Sciences*. 12(3):191.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/vetsci12030191>
2. Barras E., Boykin K., Aguilar G., Lex Z., **Bitter A.**, Mitchell M. Impact of Commercial Diets on the Nutritional Value and Mortality Rates of Dubia Roaches (*Blaptica dubia*). *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*.
3. Barras E., Boykin K., Aguilar G., Lex Z., **Bitter A.**, Mitchell M. August 2024. Dubia Roaches (*Blaptica dubia*): Food for Insectivores Made Better by Gut Loading with a High Calcium Commercial Diet. *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*. Vol 34, #3
4. Boykin K., **Bitter A.**, Mitchell MA. September 2021. Using a Commercial Gut-Loading Diet to Create a Positive Calcium to Phosphorous Ratio in Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*). *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*. DOI: 10.5818/JHSM-D-21-00027

B. Conference Proceedings

1. “Holy Crap! Measuring Digestibility of Different Commercial and Insect Diets in Northern Blue Tongue Skinks (*Tiliqua scincoides intermedia*)”. **Amy Bitter**. 2024. ARAV/AEMV Joint Conference, New Orleans, LA

2. “Hot Debate: Does Short Term UVB Increase Vitamin D Concentrations in Leopard Geckos” **Amy Bitter**. 2023. ExoticsCon, Boston MA.
3. “Are Superworms Really That Super” **Amy Bitter**. 2022. Exotics Con, Denver CO.

C. Presentations

1. “Determining the Effects of Short Term Artificial UVB Lighting on Plasma 25-OHD₃ Concentrations in Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis maculariu*).” 2023. Phi Zeta Research Day. LSU SVM
2. “Determining the Effects of Short Term Artificial UVB Lighting on Plasma 25-OHD₃ Concentrations in Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*).” 2022. Summer Scholars Symposium, St. Paul MN.

D. Awards

1. First Place Award of the Georgia Fletcher Memorial Scholarship Essay Competition by the Quaker Parakeet Society. 2024.
2. First Place in Clinical Veterinary Research by DVM and Non-DVM students. 2023 “Determining the Effects of Short Term Artificial UVB Lighting on Plasma 25-OHD₃ Concentrations in Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis maculariu*).”

E. Research Projects

1. Barras E., **Bitter A.**, Tuminello J., Lex Z., Settle A., Aguilar G., Boykin K., Mitchell M., Biodigestibility of different commercial and insect diets in Northern Blue Tongue Skinks (*Tiliqua scincoides*) 2022.

2. **Bitter A**, Settle A, Tuminello J, Mitchell MA. 2022. Determining the Effects of Short Term Artificial UVB Lighting on Plasma 25-OHD₃ Concentrations in Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*).
3. **Bitter A**, Boykin K, Mitchell MA. 2021. Can Superworms (*Zophobas morio*) be “Super” Sources of Calcium for Captive Reptiles and Amphibians?
4. Boykin K, **Bitter A**, Mitchell MA. September 2021. Using a Commercial Gut-Loading Diet to Create a Positive Calcium to Phosphorous Ratio in Mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*). *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*. DOI: 10.5818/JHSM-D-21-00027
5. Mason AK, Perry SM, Boykin K, Mitchell MA. October 2021. Measuring the Effects of a Single Dose of Human Chorionic Gonadotropin (hCG) on Plasma Testosterone Concentrations in Leopard Geckos (*Eublepharis macularius*). *Journal of Herpetological Medicine and Surgery*. DOI: 10.5818/JHSM-D-21-00013
6. Boykin K, Mitchell MA, **Bitter A**. May 2020- August 2022. Characterizing the microbiome of the house cricket (*Acheta domesticus*).