



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

FALL 2006

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Kirsten Gilardi, President

One of my main focuses as AAWV President this year will be to lead the drafting of a Five-Year Strategic Plan for the AAWV for the years 2007 – 2012. The impetus for this is rooted in the results of our 2004 election, which determined that the AAWV would remain a stand-alone organization and not merge with

the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. We then polled members in the form of the 2006 AAWV Membership Survey (the Executive Summary for this report can be found on page 5 of this newsletter, and the entire final report can be downloaded from the members-only section of our website). The results of this survey are providing the raw material for our strategic plan, and have led me to establish two ad hoc committees [see “Ad Hoc Committees on Communication and Policy”, page 7] which will contribute sections to the plan. We will present a draft Strategic Plan to members for comment and input in Summer 2007, and will adopt the final Strategic Plan at our October 2007 business meeting.

In September, we submitted a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) commending the work of their National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative (NFWHI) work group. We were particularly pleased to see that the most recent draft of the Initiative identified “...fish and wildlife veterinarians and other health specialists as cornerstones of a comprehensive network of state and territorial fish and wildlife health programs.” We have expressed to AFWA’s Fish and Wildlife Health Committee our strong interest in serving on the Governing Board of the NFWHI, as one of three at-large members representing non-governmental organizations and other interest.

Finally, we will be submitting a letter to the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service going

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SUPPORT THE AAWV WITH YOUR 2007 DUES!

The AAWV is a lean and mean machine

Everything we do as an organization dedicated to wildlife veterinary medicine, we accomplish with the approximately \$10,000 we raise in membership dues every year.

- ✓ Production of our quarterly newsletter
- ✓ Representation of our profession at meetings and forums
- ✓ Notices to members about job opportunities
- ✓ Sponsorship of symposia and speakers at conferences

Memberships are by calendar year

So now is the time... PLEASE TAKE THIS MOMENT to send in your 2007 membership dues.

Fill out the membership form in this newsletter and mail it with your check (or download a membership form from our website, www.aawv.net/membership.html.)

**Thank you for being a part of
a great organization!**

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on record in strong support of petitions requesting a delay in implementation of the USDA's final CWD Rule (Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Farmed or Captive Deer, Elk, and Moose [71FR 41682-41707, Docket No. 00-108-3]). The rule proposes the establishment of a federal CWD herd certification program, which petitioners, including the AAWV, feel is not conservative enough with regard to pre-shipment wait periods of farmed cervids to sufficiently protect free-ranging cervid populations from the spread of CWD. Our letter can be viewed on the members-only page of our website.

Last but not least: thanks for helping make this a great year for the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians! Wishing you a peaceful holiday season, and a healthy and happy 2007.

- Kirsten Gilardi

AAWV NEWSLETTER
IS PUBLISHED BY THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

Founded in 1979, the AAWV is a national, non-profit organization of veterinarians interested in all aspects of wildlife health.

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Call for Papers—February 16, 2007 Deadline

AAWV/AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO
VETERINARIANS/ NUTRITION ADVISORY GROUP 2007
ANNUAL CONFERENCE

We are pleased to announce that the AAWV will hold its annual meeting in conjunction with the AAZV and NAG in Knoxville Tennessee from October 20-26, 2007. The AAWV will be co-chairing sessions on Wildlife Health and Conservation, Toxicology, Pharmacology and Therapeutics, and Emerging and Infectious Diseases. In addition, we will host a chronic wasting disease workshop, sponsor a Cutting Edge Speaker, and conduct our annual business meeting. Other session topics include Anesthesia/Analgesia, Avian, Balancing Life and Zoo/Wildlife Medicine, Contraception/Reproduction, Carnivores/Small Mammals, Case Reports, Ectotherm Medicine, Large Mammals, Media Relations/Animal Rights/Animal Welfare and the Law, Nutrition, Pathology, and Primates. This promises to be an excellent program and a great opportunity to connect with colleagues from all the participating organizations.

We encourage you to submit titles to be considered for presentation. A list of session chairs, call for papers, submission form and instructions can be found on the AAWV website at www.aawv.net/meetings.html. The deadline for submission of titles to session chairs is 16 February 2007. If you have any questions about submitting a title or the forthcoming meeting, please do not hesitate to contact AAWV Vice President Jonathan Sleeman at jonathan.sleeman@dgif.virginia.gov.

NEW NEWSLETTER FOCUSES ON WILDLIFE ISSUES
IN THE MIDDLE EAST

A new newsletter focusing on wildlife issues in the Middle East is now available on the world wide web and for paper copy subscription. The newsletter is designed to contribute to the development of a network between zoo and wildlife professionals working in the Middle East and will publish articles with an emphasis on practical, useful and relevant material in topics including: conservation education and environmental awareness; husbandry and nutrition; design of zoological facilities; capture and translocation techniques; wildlife diseases and preventive medicine; products, book reviews and research; summaries of recent literature on Arabian animals; and letters and events.

Wildlife Middle East News will be produced as a dual language (English-Arabic) quarterly newsletter, and will be distributed to biology departments and libraries of institutes of higher education, agricultural and environmental agencies, conservation groups, wildlife projects, zoos, zoologists, veterinarians working with wild animals, veterinary hospitals involved in wildlife medicine, municipality veterinarians and pet shops. A PDF format newsletter will be e-mailed to a wider circulation of interested readers within and beyond the region.

The editors are interested in hearing from individuals, institutions, zoos and conservation projects working with wildlife within the Middle East region or with wildlife species from the Middle East managed outside the region. If you have interesting findings, news or observations please contact editors@wmenews.com or go to www.wmenews.com, where you can also download the first two issues of Wildlife Middle East News in PDF format. [Editor's note: Though I successfully downloaded the PDF files, I was unable to open them. If you experience the same problem, please let the Wildlife Middle East webmaster know at editors@wmenews.com.]

AVMA RECONSIDERS LEG-HOLD TRAP
LEGISLATION IN RESPONSE TO AAWV INPUT

(Edited from JAVMA, July 2006, with comments from Dave Jessup)

The AVMA is seeking more information about a bill that would end the use of conventional steel-jawed leghold traps on animals. It had initially supported the Inhumane Trapping Prevention Act (H.R. 3442), but the AVMA Executive Board approved a recommendation from the Legislative Advisory Committee to seek more information after the AAWV raised concerns about the legislation in a letter to the AVMA. Among other issues, the AAWV letter points out that the bill fails to enumerate the multiple legitimate uses of leghold traps for wildlife management and research, and doesn't distinguish between modified padded-jaw leghold traps, which can be used humanely and effectively in many species, and other trap designs that result in greater morbidity.

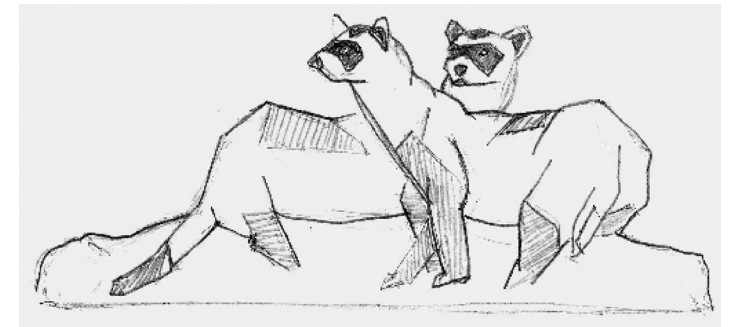
The AVMA Animal Welfare Committee and AVMA Committee on Environmental Issues requested that the Legislative Advisory Committee recommend the AVMA change its position on the bill. During the next year, the committees will review the AVMA policy on trapping and its impact on the welfare of wild animals and on the current needed trapping practices within the wildlife community.

This is a very good example of how AAWV can influence the AVMA and move wildlife issues in a positive direction. As we become more sophisticated in our dealings with the AVMA, USAHA and others, this can only improve. On a broader scale, it is also an example of the AAWV acting quickly and decisively on an issue that affects us directly. It is why an active and nimble AAWV exists and represents the kind of service we offer our members. Along with providing input on national wildlife health initiatives, supporting jobs for wildlife veterinarians, and defending wildlife interests on issues like feral cats, euthanasia procedures and access to appropriate immobilization drugs, this work is what makes the AAWV of value to its members.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

International Wildlife Disease Opportunities with SAIC

Science Applications International Corporation is requesting resumes from veterinary medical specialists and DVMs to use in developing a roster of veterinary specialists for possible consulting opportunities on international bird and animal disease control and surveillance efforts. They are soliciting resumes from qualified U.S. citizens and foreign country nationals who have experience working in developing country settings, including people who are currently based in countries other than the United States. For more information, contact Joseph P. Dudley, Ph.D. via email: joseph.p.dudley@saic.com or jdudley@eaicorp.com.



Artist's sketch of proposed statuette award featuring two black-footed ferrets in bronze.

**CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT FOR TOM THORNE/
BETH WILLIAMS MEMORIAL AWARD**

The Wildlife Disease Association and the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians are seeking contributions to support the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award for Achievement in Wildlife Health. This award is a permanent testimonial to Tom and Beth—their achievements, the inspiration of their lives, and their contributions to the conservation and health of wildlife. The award will be presented jointly by the WDA and AAWV to acknowledge an exemplary contribution either combining wildlife disease research with wildlife policy implementation or elucidating particularly significant problems in wildlife health. Contributions will be placed in an endowment fund, the proceeds of which will finance award presentation. Proceeds will be used to fund (in priority order): a bronze award statuette of two black footed ferrets; travel to the annual conference to receive the award; and involvement of the recipient(s) in selecting an appropriate way to honor Tom and Beth via a contribution to a worthy project of the type they might have supported or participated in.

Please contact AAWV Treasurer Colin Gillin [colin.gillin@state.or.us], WDA Treasurer Carol Meteyer [carol_meteyer@usgs.gov], or Scott Starr at Allen Press [[sstarr@allenpress.com](mailto:ssstarr@allenpress.com)] with questions or donation inquiries.

Staff Veterinarian
Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch

The Humane Society seeks a full- or part-time staff veterinarian for their Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch, a 1300-acre animal sanctuary located in east Texas with a collection including carnivores, primates, wild and domestic hoofstock, elephant, reptiles, and birds. Responsibilities include design and implementation of preventative veterinary care programs; evaluation of animal health; diagnosis and treatment of illness and injury; capture and restraint of animals; euthanasia and necropsy as necessary; assessment and design of nutrition programs; and maintenance of medical records. Competitive salary and award-winning benefits package, including housing. Please submit curriculum vitae and cover letter including salary history to Mr. Richard Farinato, rfarinato@hsus.org; Box 367, Murchison, TX 75778; phone 903-469-3811; fax 903-469-4023.

MINUTES OF THE AAWV ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

August 8, 2006, University of Connecticut, Storrs
Rick Gerhold (edited)

I. Welcome; Introductions

The AAWV 2006 annual business meeting commenced at 5:06 pm. Approximately 50 AAWV members were in attendance, including President Kirsten Gilardi, Vice-President Jonathan Sleeman, and Treasurer Colin Gillin. Rick Gerhold took meeting minutes for Secretary Mark Cunningham, who was unable to attend the meeting. Gilardi started the meeting with a few quick announcements, and introduced officers and members of the council.

II. Approval of 2005 Business Meeting Minutes

Gilardi reminded members that minutes of the 2005 business meeting were published in the Fall 2005 AAWV newsletter, as well as sent via email to members. There was no discussion, and all members voted in favor of a motion to accept the 2005 minutes.

III. Secretary's Report

Rick Gerhold delivered the Secretary's Report: currently, there are 226 members who have paid their 2006 dues; 184 members are active, 33 are students, and nine are subscribing members. Additionally, it was noted that since August 2005 the AAWV Secretary has distributed 20 vacant position announcements to members via email. There was no discussion, and all members voted in favor of a motion to accept the 2005 Secretary's Report.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Colin Gillin delivered the Treasurer's report. Gillin pointed out that present revenues from 2006 membership dues covered total costs of newsletter production, and that expenses were very minor this past year. Additionally, Colin stated that the AAWV is currently holding \$5,950.00 for the Tom Thorne- Beth Williams Memorial Award fund. The Tom Thorne- Beth Williams Memorial Award fund committee is raising money to endow this award and it is a joint effort of the AAWV and the Wildlife Disease Association [see related article on page 3 - ed.]. Dave Jessup serves as an AAWV-representative on this committee and is the committee chairperson. Jessup stated that the goal is to raise approximately \$60-70,000 for an endowment, which will be used to support the Memorial Award, and will be presented in acknowledgment of either an exemplary contribution or achievement combining wildlife disease research with wildlife management policy implementation or elucidating particularly significant problems in wildlife health. There was no discussion, and all members voted in favor of a motion to accept the 2006 Treasurer's report.

V. President's Report

Gilardi summarized the 2006 President's Report, which was distributed to members in September:

Jordan Mencher took over as AAWV newsletter editor from Joe Gaydos last fall and he has put out three newsletters so far. Gilardi also reminded members that the newsletter is posted on the member's only section of the AAWV website.

Several committee appointments occurred this year. The AAWV and AAZV jointly nominated Scott Larsen to represent the organizations on the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Environmental Issues. Larsen replaces

Paul Barrows, who served as our appointee for six years. Ted Mashima was nominated to serve on the AVMA's Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. Dave Jessup noted that Tim Reichard also serves the AAWV on a separate AVMA Animal Welfare Committee. Reichard is the AAWV/AZV representative for that committee. Terry Norton was appointed to serve as the AAWV representative on the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine editorial board.

Kimberlee Beckmen is co-chairing a session at The Wildlife Society meeting in September in Anchorage that AAWV is co-sponsoring with WDA. The session covers wildlife diseases and impacts to wildlife populations. The AAWV sponsored the Cutting Edge speaker for the 2006 AAWV/WDA meeting, and the AAWV and AAZV co-sponsored a session at that meeting.

AAWV officially endorsed the AAZV's Guidelines for Euthanasia of Non-Domestic Animals. The AAWV submitted a letter to AVMA stating AAWV's concern over H.R. 3442 [see AAWV Winter 2006 newsletter and related article on page 3 of this newsletter - ed.]. The bill as written does not take into account the legitimate uses of leg hold traps in wildlife management and disease monitoring. AAWV suggested that AVMA not endorse bill 3442 as written, and as a consequence, the AVMA Legislative Advisory Committee recommended to the AVMA Board of Governors that the AVMA reconsider its support of this bill. The AAWV is currently drafting comments in response to a request from the National Fish & Wildlife Health Initiative. An addendum to the President's Report sent out in August 2006 outlined Jonathan Sleeman's summary of AAWV officer and council members' comments regarding wild animals as pets. The addendum was available for members to review. Dave Jessup commented on the AVMA and public health professionals' views on wildlife as pets

Results of the AAWV membership survey were discussed [see below, and related article on next page - ed.].

The president reminded attendees that the AAWV's website, edited by Colin Gillin, is regularly updated and has a variety of national and international news, editorials, policy, job placement and articles informing and supporting the membership.

There was no discussion, and all members voted in favor of a motion to accept the 2006 President's report.

VI. Old Business

The 2006 AAWV Membership Survey was distributed in the Winter 2006 newsletter. It went out to 258 members and 58 surveys had been returned for a return rate of 22%. Gilardi presented a draft Membership Survey Report, and went through survey results question by question. [see related article on next page - ed.]. Gilardi highlighted several points about survey results. Most respondents work on free-ranging animals, their work is diverse, and respondents perform a large number of different activities. Respondents also belong to many other professional organizations, so the AAWV needs to make sure that it does not duplicate efforts of other wildlife/exotic animal organizations. Approximately 50% of respondents preferred an electronic version of the newsletter over a paper version.

Given the information on the survey, Gilardi proposed that the AAWV write a strategic plan based on survey results. She proposed to establish two ad hoc committees to work on policy and communications strategies. The committees would work with the AAWV

Advisory Council and Officers to incorporate their reports into the strategic plan. The goal is to have a strategic plan to present at the 2007 AAWV business meeting.

Sonia Hernandez-Divers asked if the survey could be left open on the AAWV website until the strategic plan was drafted. Colin Gillin asked how many of the 258 members received the survey; however, that information was not known. Anneke Moresco suggested that new members take the survey when they join and Scott Larsen suggested that the survey be placed on the renewal form.

Dave Jessup suggested that the AAWV have a list of member's e-mail addresses available on the website. Colin Gillin suggested that this be in PDF format to protect e-mail accounts from viruses. Gilardi suggested that we produce a Member Directory to be included in a future newsletter. Paul Barrows noted that under Item 8 of the survey, the AAWV's position with the AVMA should be properly noted as a seat in the House of Delegates.

Lisa Shender, Sonia Hernandez-Divers, and Anneke Moresco volunteered to serve on the communications strategy committee. Paul Barrows and Dave Jessup commended the AAWV President for conducting the survey.

VII. New Business

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)'s National Fish & Wildlife Health Initiative is in its planning stages, and the AAWV has been invited to participate in the August 23 2006 comment meeting for NGOs. Gilardi prepared a draft letter representing AAWV members' comments on the Initiative. There was discussion regarding the Initiative's use of language that excludes references to veterinarians and veterinary medicine. Jim Sikarskie stated that he felt that a lot of non-veterinarians have a great deal of knowledge of wildlife diseases, but that the lack of reference to veterinarians in the document was of concern. Carol Meteyer commented that perhaps the AAWV should suggest to AFWA that it incorporate veterinarians into the wildlife health team.

Paul Barrows made a motion that the AAWV give additional \$2,000 to the Tom Thorne - Beth Williams Memorial Award Fund. The motion was seconded by Kimberlee Beckmen, there was no discussion, and all members voted in favor of the motion.

Jonathan Sleeman discussed results of a survey that the AAZV Committee on Wildlife Health and Conservation (co-chaired by Sleeman and Scott Larsen) sent to wildlife biologists regarding their experience with wildlife veterinarians. Overall, wildlife biologists had a positive experience working with wildlife veterinarians. The survey also asked what veterinarians could do to further assist biologists. Sleeman said he would be willing to discuss the results with any members who are interested, and also solicited comments from the membership regarding AAWV's MOA with AAZV.

Sleeman announced that the AAWV and AAZV would be sponsoring a session jointly at the upcoming AAZV meeting in Tampa, Florida in September 2006. Gilardi also noted that the AAWV has been invited to meet with the AAZV in Knoxville, TN in October 2007. The main AAWV business meeting will occur there, but an informal AAWV meeting can also occur at the WDA meeting in Estes Park, Colorado.

Gilardi reminded members that elections for AAWV officers will occur next summer. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.

2006 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the 2006 AAWV Membership Survey was to conduct the first-ever assessment of our membership, the results of which will lay the groundwork for a strategic plan for the AAWV. Surveys were distributed to 258 members as a newsletter insert in the Winter 2006 newsletter, and the survey was posted on the AAWV website. The survey period extended until October 15, 2006. A total of 87 members completed and returned survey forms, for an return rate of approximately 34%.

In addition to working at state/provincial and federal agencies (n=22), many AAWV members work at academic institutions (n=22), in domestic animal private practice (n=16), and at zoos and aquaria (n=15). Most members engage in many different activities (i.e., research, clinical medicine, teaching, disease surveillance, administration) in the course of their daily work. AAWV members belong to many other organizations, which reflects members' diverse interests, responsibilities, dedication to the veterinary profession, and the multidisciplinary nature of our work. The primary reasons for members joining the AAWV relate to the desire to stay current on wildlife health issues, connect with others in our field, and be educated. This organization is also important to members' identities as wildlife veterinarians. Members highly value the newsletter, our sponsorship of symposia and conference sessions, and our representation in other organizations (e.g. WDA, USAHA, and AVMA). Members would feel better served by creation of a membership directory and more communication opportunities, both from and within the organization. More international membership and visibility for the organization are also important to members. Respondents feel that the most important avenues for growth of the organization are increasing our influence on wildlife health and wildlife veterinary medicine policy and issues at the state and federal level, and increasing opportunities for communications to and among members. Respondents were evenly divided regarding paper versus electronic newsletters.

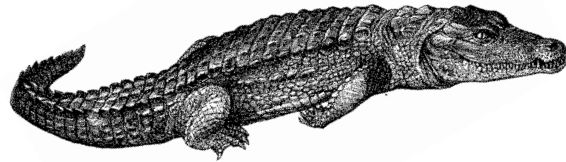
The entire survey report can be viewed online.

Undiagnosed deaths in Australian crocodiles

From ProMED, Sep 2006 (edited)

South African veterinarian Dr. Fritz Huchzermeyer arrived in Darwin last week to investigate the puzzling deaths of thousands of farmed juvenile salt-water crocodiles throughout Australia's Northern Territory in recent months. Dr Huchzermeyer is regarded as the foremost crocodile disease expert in the world.

While scientists from the Australian Department of Primary Industries are confident the deaths are linked to a *Chlamydia* outbreak, Dr. Huchzermeyer believes the deaths could also be a new strain of pox virus.



"In crocodile populations I have seen around the world with *Chlamydia* infections, the mortality rate has been very low, whereas in this case, it is extremely high," Dr Huchzermeyer said. "Also, the affected crocodiles are not responding to tetracyclines, used to successfully treat juvenile crocodiles infected with *Chlamydia*. It's very puzzling to have these conjunctivitis signs, which suggest *Chlamydia*, combined with ... severe swelling of the pharynx, which hardens and suffocates the crocs. These mucosal lesions on the crocodiles could also suggest a new manifestation of the pox virus; it is possible that water birds that migrate between the farms have been passive carriers of whatever disease is affecting the population." Dr. Huchzermeyer stressed the need for histopathologic examination from affected animals for a definitive diagnosis. "Whatever it is, this is the highest mortality rate I've ever seen for such a large population."

Multi-species Cryptococcosis in the Pacific Northwest

From Promed (edited), Oct 2006

A microscopic fungus native to Australia and blamed for the death of people and animals in British Columbia is now linked to the deaths of porpoises and at least one cat in Washington state. Necropsies have that shown that *Cryptococcus gattii*, first detected in the Pacific Northwest on Vancouver Island in 1999, was the cause of death in six porpoises and one cat in the state, according to Washington's former public health veterinarian Almira Jane Leslie.

The dead cat, along with two others that were infected with the fungus in 2005, came from Whatcom County, which borders British Columbia. The six dead porpoises were among 25 that have died in Washington state and British Columbia since 1999, Leslie said. Except for a few isolated cases in animals in aquariums, doctors and veterinarians said it was the first time the fungus has been documented in the United States. It is typically found in Eucalyptus trees of tropical Australia, but can drift or be blown into water as leaves dry out.

Since the fungus was discovered in British Columbia, it has been blamed for the deaths of at least 4 people. Dogs, llamas, ferrets, pet birds, and horses also have been infected, and authorities at the British Columbia Center for Disease Control estimate that 25 people become sick with *cryptococcus* infection in the province annually.

Laboratory tests indicate the fungus can reproduce in salt water, and Stephen A. Raverty, a veterinary pathologist with the Animal Health Center in Abbotsford, British Columbia, suggests that porpoises probably become infected when tainted water enters their blow holes. Scientists are trying to determine whether the porpoises found dead in Washington state became sick in US waters or in Canada. "It's difficult to really put this in context if there's a point source of exposure or if there (are) multiple places where these animals are exposed," Raverty said. "We expect the latter, though."

The Whatcom County cats all had different owners and apparently had not been north of the border, Leslie said. "We think the cats acquired the illness in Washington state," she said.

Cryptococcus gattii is an encapsulated basidiomycete yeast-like fungus with a predilection for the respiratory and nervous system of humans and animals. The distribution of *C. gattii cryptococcosis* is geographically restricted; human disease is endemic in Australia, Papua New Guinea, parts of Africa, the Mediterranean region, India, Southeast Asia, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, and southern California. Non-immunocompromised hosts are usually affected, large mass lesions in lung and/or brain (cryptococcomas) are characteristic, and morbidity from neurological disease is high.

Environmental isolations, initially from the Barossa Valley in South Australia, have established that *C. gattii* has a specific ecological association with several species of Eucalyptus trees widely distributed in mainland Australia and along its eastern coastal seaboard, extending northward to Papua New Guinea. Three of these tree species have been exported to several countries in which human disease due to *C. gattii* has been reported; however, the association is not exact, and evidence for an epidemiological association between this cryptococcal habitat and human infection is circumstantial: there is correlation between the global distribution of human infection with *C. gattii* and the 5 species of eucalypts; environmental searches conducted in Australia and elsewhere have so far failed to identify any other natural source; and in Australia, 92 percent of human isolates and all of those from koalas (an animal which lives in close association with eucalypts) and from all 5 host eucalypts identified to date exhibit the same genetic fingerprint, labelled VGI. These findings are consistent with an epidemiological association between mammalian disease and exposure to host eucalypts; however, the occurrence of human *C. gattii* infection in other countries which lack the host trees, and observations of a distinct genetic type (VGII) in certain locations in Australia, suggest that additional environmental niches for this fungus are yet to be discovered.

Poxvirus threatens Red Squirrels in the UK

From Promed (edited) July/August 2006

Squirrel pox virus, one of the major factors behind the decline of the once-common red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*), has struck in just a few miles from a National Trust red squirrel reserve in England. Veterinarians identified the disease from an animal found dead in a back garden.

Red squirrels have been in Britain for the last 10,000 years and are protected under the UK's Wildlife and Countryside Act. Grey squirrels were introduced from the United States more than 100 years ago, and are probably responsible for the introduction of the squirrelpox virus into the UK. Squirrelpox virus is a parapoxvirus related to orf (contagious ecthyma) virus, which causes sores and ulcers on the face, feet and thighs and is often fatal within two weeks to sensitive species.

Grey squirrels (*Sciurus carolinensis*) can carry the squirrelpox virus without being affected and act as a reservoir of infection for red squirrels. According to studies undertaken by Scotland's Moredun Research Institute, 61 percent of apparently healthy grey squirrels have been exposed to the squirrelpox virus; in contrast, only three percent of red squirrels were found to have antibody to the virus, with 75 percent of these animals showing clinical signs of squirrelpox virus-associated disease. In addition, an apparent correlation was found between the geographical distribution of grey squirrels with antibody to the virus and the locations where squirrelpox virus disease is known or thought to have occurred. Scientists have also compared Cumbria and Norfolk, where the virus had broken out, to Scotland and Italy, where there was no trace of the disease, and found that red squirrel population decline was up to 25 times worse where they were exposed to the disease.

Researchers have now called for depopulation of grey squirrels in corridors to red squirrel areas to prevent protected populations from being exposed to the virus. A selective, small-scale cull has been achieved in Kielder Forest, Northumberland, after experts analysed the red squirrel refuge and identified four areas through which greys could

get access. There are now plans to apply the approach to the other 15 squirrel refuges in Cumbria, Northumberland, North Yorkshire and Merseyside.

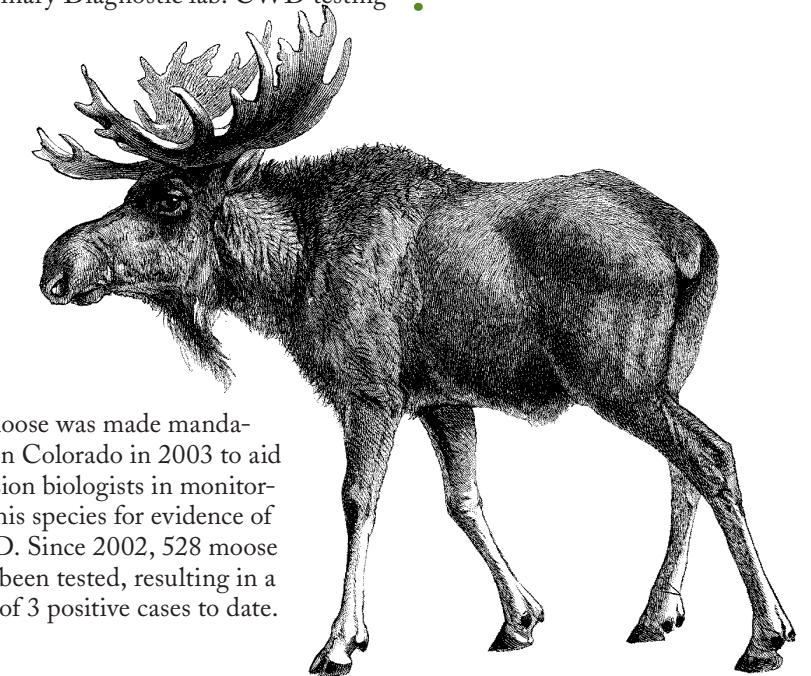
Dr Peter Lurz, a research associate at the Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability at Newcastle University, said "It is vital we get this disease under control, especially as it is now threatening to spread across the border to Scotland, with severe consequences for red squirrel conservation there."

More Chronic Wasting Disease found in Colorado moose

From ProMed (edited), Nov 2006

The Colorado Division of Wildlife has confirmed that 2 legally harvested bull moose from northern Colorado have tested positive for chronic wasting disease (CWD). A moose killed in October in game management unit (GMU) 7 in north central Colorado was the 2nd CWD-positive moose diagnosed in Colorado in 2006. GMU 7 is northeast of the unit where Colorado's first positive moose was harvested, in September 2005. Another moose, harvested in October 2006 from GMU 6, also tested positive; this unit is within the same population unit as the inaugural 2005 case.

CWD was diagnosed in testing completed by the Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic lab. CWD testing



for moose was made mandatory in Colorado in 2003 to aid Division biologists in monitoring this species for evidence of CWD. Since 2002, 528 moose have been tested, resulting in a total of 3 positive cases to date.

New Ad Hoc Committees on Communications and Policy

The AAWV has recently established ad hoc committees to focus on two important issues identified by participants in the 2006 AAWV membership survey: communications and policy. The Communications Committee will identify the AAWV's current strategies for communications, closely evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of these strategies, and, based on their findings, recommend a set of strategies for communications to better link members. The Policy Committee will identify and collate the AAWV's past and current policy statements, and develop processes for distributing, applying and using AAWV policy statements to inform wildlife management and conservation efforts. These committees will be working hard and present reports to the AAWV President in February 2007.

Communications Committee

Sonia Hernandez-Divers, Chair
Lisa Shender
Tom deMaar
Nancy Anderson

Policy Committee

Jonathan Sleeman, Chair
Mark Cunningham
Kimberlee Beckmen
Steve Osofsky
Dave Jessup

2006 – 2007 UPCOMING MEETINGS

AAWV STUDENT CHAPTER POLICY

The AAWV welcomes the opportunity to recognize wildlife health/medicine clubs at North American veterinary schools as student chapters of the AAWV. If you are a faculty member or student interested in AAWV sponsorship, please follow these guidelines to request chapter status:

1) The student designated as the AAWV Student Chapter president must write a letter to AAWV Secretary Mark Cunningham (mark.cunningham@fwc.state.fl.us) requesting recognition on a calendar year (not academic year) basis. The letter must include the names of at least 10 students who are members of the AAWV (or applications for membership from said students) and must identify a faculty sponsor for the chapter. It is preferred but not required that the faculty sponsor be an AAWV member.

2) Student Chapter status must be renewed every calendar year, and should include a membership list and the names of the current student chapter president and faculty sponsor.

3) Student Chapters will not be required to pay dues for the chapter; however, individual members of the student chapter will be required to be student members of the AAWV. Chapters will receive a newsletter (sent to the Chapter President) and the username/password for the members-only section of the AAWV website.

4) Chapters will be required to submit a report to the AAWV Student Liaison by July 1st of each year summarizing the previous academic year's activities.

<i>Jan 13-17</i>	North American Veterinary Conference. Orlando, Florida. Download the program at http://tinyurl.com/g2an4 , and registration info at http://www.tnavc.org/mynavc/Conference/Registration/tabid/76/Default.aspx
<i>Mar 16-18</i>	The 15th Annual Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium (SEAMAMMS). Beaufort, North Carolina. Submission deadline January 31st 2007. For more information contact Lucie Hazen at: ljhazen@duke.edu
<i>Apr 4-6</i>	First Annual CL Davis Symposium on Diagnostic Pathology of Diseases of Aerial, Terrestrial and Aquatic Wildlife. Madison, Wisconsin. For more info email cldavisdvm@comcast.net
<i>Jul 1-5</i>	The 21st annual meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology. Port Elizabeth, South Africa. For more information go to www.nmmu.ac.za/scb/callpapo.htm or visit the meeting website at www.conbio.org/2007 . Deadline for abstracts is January 8 2007.
<i>Aug 12-17</i>	Wildlife Disease Association Conference. Estes Park, Colorado. For more info go to www.wildlifedisease.org/meetings.htm
<i>Oct 20-25</i>	AAWV/AAZV Joint Conference. Knoxville, Tennessee. Deadline for abstracts is February 16th, 2007. For more info go to www.aawv.net/meetings.html .

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