



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

Quarterly Newsletter of the AAWV

Spring 2002

President's Comments

By Terry Kreeger

As most of you know, we have been working with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) for the past couple of years to form an “umbrella” organization comprised of our two groups. This organization, called the National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians (NAZWV), was intended to serve many purposes, but primarily it was designed so that one organization could effectively speak to the common interests of both organizations.

One intended goal of the NAZWV was to apply to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for House of Delegate (HOD) status. If granted, this would have allowed the NAZWV to have a voice and a vote in issues affecting wildlife medicine. It does not look like this will happen soon.

In order for the NAZWV to qualify even for consideration of HOD status, 90% of its members must be active AVMA members and that number must be equal to at least 1% of the total AVMA active membership. Unfortunately, we fell short of both criteria when the NAZWV membership list was submitted to the AVMA.

A total of 774 names were submitted for consideration. Of those 774 names, 632 (82%) were active AVMA members; so we did not meet the “90%” rule. The current AVMA membership is 67,097. One percent of that number would be 671 members. Thus, the NAZWV also did not meet the 1% rule.

Joining forces with the AAZV will be one of the prime points of discussion at this year's AAWV business meeting (to be held at the WDA conference). This setback to gain AVMA HOD status is certainly not the end of western civilization as we know it. However, we should be taking a serious look at the future direction of the AAWV in light of these recent events. There are several directions we can take:

1. Continue just as we are; an independent organization of wildlife veterinarians, which periodically has meetings with the WDA or the AAZV.
2. Strive to increase the number of active AVMA members in both organizations in order to reapply as the NAZWV and perhaps gain AVMA HOD status.
3. Continue to develop the NAZWV umbrella organization, regardless of future AVMA status (although there is a possibility of gaining non-voting HOD status).
4. Formally join the AAWV and AAZV into one official organization (this still would not guarantee any future status with the AVMA, because we still might not meet their criteria).

Point number 4 may cause a lot of members angst, but I think we need to seriously discuss it. There are several obstacles to joining the two groups. These obstacles may overwhelm any benefits derived. Nonetheless, we have talked about joining with the AAZV for years, but it has been just that, talk.

At this year's business meeting, I will propose that a committee be formed to hold official talks with a comparable committee from the AAZV. These committees will be charged with addressing all the pros and cons of combining the two organizations. A summary report with recommendations will then be circulated to both memberships for consideration. At some point, I can foresee a membership vote on a recommendation to combine the two groups.

Remember, regardless of what comes from all of this, it is you guys that will decide the future of the AAWV. I feel that it is the job of the officers and advisory board to develop options for your consideration. That's what we get paid the big bucks to do. In the end, it is your organization and only you will decide its fate. And also remember, that any decision that you make can also be undone if it doesn't work to your satisfaction.

Hope to see many of you in Arcata, California this summer. The AAWV business meeting is scheduled for 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 30.

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Secretary Notes

by Kirsten Gilardi

Once again, it is my (unfortunate) duty to report to AAWV membership that as of May 15, 2002, we still haven't received 2002 dues from about 60% of the folks who were members in 2001! Membership fees are the only source of funds for running the organization, including newsletter production and mailing, our annual meeting, and costs incurred by officers in performing their duties. We typically don't send out renewal notices, as some of the larger professional organizations do (who usually do so via quarterly journals and with the assistance of their publishers), and instead remind members to renew their membership for the upcoming year in end-of-the-year newsletters.

Your membership status is listed on the mailing label of your newsletter: in the upper right hand corner of the label there is a code denoting your membership category (see below) and the year through which you have paid dues. Please take a moment to check the label, and if you have not yet paid for 2002, please do at your earliest convenience. Only members paid for 2002 will receive the next AAWV newsletter, due out in late Summer/early Fall. There are two easy ways to renew membership for 2002:

Yearly membership fees are due January 1

- Send in a completed membership form, which is on the back of every newsletter; or
- Fill in, print, and send a membership form off the AAWV website: www.aawv.net.

An Active Member (AC) is a graduate of a college or school of veterinary medicine who supports the objectives of the AAWV. Active members are the voting members of the Association. A Student Member (ST) is a student in a college or school of veterinary medicine who is interested in the objectives of the AAWV. Student members are non-voting. A Subscribing Member (SU) is a non-DVM individual or institution who supports the objectives of the AAWV. Subscribing members are non-voting. Members in all categories receive the AAWV quarterly newsletter.

Student Highlight

UC Davis Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Medicine Club

by Monie Yee

The goal of the UC Davis Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Medicine Club (WAAM) is to enhance and supplement our veterinary education with field trips, hands-on training, and guest speakers. Our formal veterinary curriculum focuses primarily on domestic animals. To address student interest in wildlife medicine, WAAM organizes a variety of field trips each year. Additionally, the club organizes tours to several local captive wildlife facilities. Students have the opportunity to gain practical experience through our darting, raptor handling and wildlife pathology labs.

California is a state with a prominent professional community in wildlife and aquatic animal research and medicine. The scientific community and the public are aware of the vital importance of managing our wildlife populations as a

renewable resource, and in monitoring wildlife to assess our impact on environmental health. For the past seven years WAAM has responded to this interest by sponsoring a symposium on wildlife issues such as endangered species management, parasitology, toxicology, and physiology. The symposium aims to provide an interdisciplinary approach to wildlife medicine, management and conservation. The tradition continued this year—our Eighth Annual Symposium was held January 19, 2002.

The Wildlife and Aquatic Animal Medicine Club is a Student Chapter of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians and a Student Chapter of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine.

For more information:
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clubs/waam

On-Line Update

Over the Christmas holidays, our webmaster, Peggi Rodgers, worked out an arrangement with Monterey Bay Internet for a change in the hosting of the organization's website. In addition to enhanced capability and flexibility, the new server will offer AAWV the ability to administer our own domain. AAWV would like to express its thanks to Monterey Bay Internet for their generosity in donating the server space to host AAWV.net. In addition, the AAWV would like to especially thank Peggi for her continued outstanding work in developing, refining and keeping current, the AAWV website.

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

President

Terry Kreeger
tekreege@wyoming.com

Vice-president

Julie Langenberg
langj@dnr.state.wi.us

Secretary

Kirsten Gilardi
kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu

Treasurer

Walt Cook
wecook@uwoyo.edu

Newsletter

Mike Ziccardi, Editor
Nancy Ottum, Design

Webmaster

Peggi Rodgers

Wildlife Health in Hungary

By Karoly Erdlyi

The Wildlife Health Department of the Central Veterinary Institute provides diagnostic pathology and laboratory services for native and exotic wildlife species as well as wildlife health expertise for wildlife managers, conservationists, zoos and the veterinary authorities in Hungary. Research activities were always an important supplement to the routine diagnostic work but they are gaining grounds and support with the recognition of the role and importance of health issues in conservation, wildlife and ecosystem management.

Protection of birds of prey in Hungary has a short but successful history. It all started in the early 1970s when conservation efforts were focused on building artificial nests, providing nest surveillance and guarding them during breeding seasons. Populations of endangered raptor species have strengthened (e.g. during this period the numbers of saker falcon (*Falco cherrug*) and eastern imperial eagle (*Aquila heliaca*) breeding pairs have risen to about 130 and 60, respectively). However, in a constantly changing environment we have to keep an eye on the emerging threats facing these still vulnerable populations.

After the diagnosis of a generalized Mycoplasma infection in a saker falcon nestling, my bacteriologist colleague Miklos Tenk and I waited for an opportunity to investigate the pathogenic potential of mycoplasmas in raptor nestlings. The project began in 2000 when Szabolcs Solt started his PhD research project, studying the breeding success of raptors and the factors influencing nestling survival. The work continued in 2001 with the assistance provided by the Wildlife Conservation Society, Field Veterinary Program. Sampling should be finished after the 2002 breeding season. The goal of our study is to obtain base-

line data on the prevalence of selected infectious agents in nestlings of endangered (imperial eagle, saker falcon) and common raptor species (buzzards (*Buteo buteo*), goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*)) and to assess the impact of these agents on the free-living populations. The survey focuses on the prevalence of pathogenic and facultatively pathogenic bacteria, *Trichomonas gallinae*, mycoplasmas, etc. based on pharyngeal and cloacal swab sampling and laboratory isolation. This approach was chosen because of its minimal invasiveness and compliance with the recommendations of the conservation authorities. Additionally, this method is more feasible for our non-veterinary team mates whom work with us and help ensure that we have a large sample size. Cases of clinically manifested disease and mortalities are also investigated. By the end of this study, we'll hopefully be able to see whether there is correlation between the prevalence of specific pathogens and breeding success of raptor pairs. Preliminary results are very interesting. They include findings of associated mycoplasma and pox infections in eaglets and certain species-specific prevalence patterns of the isolated microorganisms. We expect further interesting results regarding the prevalence and host specificity of different mycoplasma species after the typing of our isolates is completed.

Finally, I'd like to mention some examples of current issues facing the tiny community of wildlife health professionals in Hungary. The spread of *Fascioloides magna*, a good example of an invasive parasite species, is causing problems in two riverine forest habitats of very important red deer (*Cervus elaphus*) populations. The fluke arrived from Slovakia and the Czech Republic along the Danube River in the early nineties.

It has already affected deer populations further downstream, in Croatia and Yugoslavia. The study of the ecology and factors contributing to the expansion of this species bears real relevance for both conservation and wildlife management. A second example is the oral immunization campaign of red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*) against rabies which seems to have complex consequences that were not anticipated by the initiators of the project. There is a significant increase of fox population density in areas receiving vaccines and this contributes to problems in the management and utilisation of small game and protected species. Public health concerns are also being voiced in conjunction with the fast urbanisation of the expanding fox populations. The epidemiologic aspects of these drastic changes form the subject of my own PhD research.

Even such a small European country as Hungary seems to be able to produce countless, exciting challenges for wildlife veterinarians. We are here to face them by applying the global body of knowledge, utilizing the benefits of this "shrinking" World while trying to make our own fair contribution.



Bighorn Sheep Pasteurellosis

Date: 19 Mar 2002

Source: The Trib.com [edited]

Wyoming Game and Fish Department officials are considering a reduction in bighorn sheep hunting licenses this fall due to a pneumonia outbreak affecting the Gros Ventre herd. Twenty-nine dead sheep have been found on the National Elk Refuge and in nearby areas, up from 12 at the end of January. The herd has about 500 sheep.

Terry Kreeger said pneumonia is to blame for all the deaths but what is causing the pneumonia remains a mystery. "We don't know if we will ever find the cause," he said. *Pasteurella pneumonia* is often the cause of wildlife deaths, he said, but that has not been found in overwhelming numbers of dead sheep. Kreeger said the outbreak will probably end on its own and animals with stronger immune systems will ward off the illness. "It sounds bad, but the sooner they die the better in some instances," he said.

Botulism in the Great Lakes

Date: 3 Mar 2002

Source: The Buffalo News [edited]

Scientists are coming to believe there is a relationship between 2 prolific invader species—the round goby and the quagga mussel—and the washing up of thousands of bird and fish carcasses on the [Lake Erie] shoreline. Both Canadian and US pathologists have determined the majority of the loons, gulls, mergansers, and other birds found along the lake shore were killed by Type E botulism. Of 192 dead loons found on New York's Lake Erie shoreline, 59 percent were found to have eaten gobies.

"The goby is the key," said Ward Stone, the state Department of Environmental Conservation's senior wildlife pathologist. The goby is one of the few fish feeding on the hard-shelled mussels. In turn, the goby is a preferred food for a number of birds. Stone said his department normally doesn't do pathological examinations of fish, but he had done some anyway "and found Type E toxin in them" and "we found no other reason for the fish to be dying except Type E botulism." In examinations of loons, ducks, cormorants, and gulls, Stone said he found "lots and lots of ground quagga mus-

sels, and Type E was isolated from them."

Although there has been no report of Type E botulism on any of the other Great Lakes, Stone said it is "likely Lake Ontario" is next. If it does show up in Lake Ontario, Stone said the potential for an even greater bird and fish die-off is possible because more birds spent winter on the lake, which is too deep to freeze over.

CWD in Nebraska

Date: 11 Apr 2002

Source: Nebraska Games and Parks Commission News Release [edited]

A two-year-old female mule deer shot March 25 by a Nebraska Game and Parks conservation officer near Gering became the 14th wild deer in the state to test positive for chronic wasting disease. The animal was shot and its head was sent to the National Veterinary Sciences Laboratory for testing. The test results indicated that the deer was positive. "This just underscores the importance of our monitoring and testing program," Bruce Morrison [of the Nebraska wildlife commission] said. "And it demonstrates how necessary it is for citizens to contact the Commission if they see any sick animals in the wild."

Since the 2000 firearm season, 14 wild deer in Nebraska have tested positive, three of which were harvested by hunters. The remaining 11 were taken during several Commission culling operations as part of a monitoring program. The majority of those were taken within a several-mile radius of a captive elk ranch in northwest Sioux County. Nearly 50 percent of deer culled from within the game ranch fences have tested positive for the disease. Morrison said there are several captive elk herds in the Gering area, however all elk from those herds that have died or been killed have tested negative for the disease.

Date: 31 Mar 2002

Source: Rocky Mountain News [edited]

About half of the white-tailed deer within an 800-acre enclosure in northwestern Nebraska have tested positive for chronic wasting disease, a staggering total surpassing by far any known infection rate for the deadly disease.

Though test results from the herd have trickled in for months, the new numbers, 79 positives out of 154 deer, are nearly final pending a handful of additional lab results. They show a spread of the disease unmatched outside of research pens in Fort Collins.

The numbers buttress emerging belief among scientists that CWD is more contagious among white-tailed deer as opposed to mule deer and elk, in which infection rates in the wild typically hover around 5% percent and 1%, respectively. It is especially alarming in Nebraska and points east, where white-tailed deer herds are far denser than in Colorado.

Bruce Morrison said while the infection rate inside the pen is very high, it has festered there for nearly 18 months—plenty of time for it to spread in a relatively confined space. "Our bigger concern is what could be outside the pen, in the wild population," he said.

So far, it appears the disease hasn't moved as aggressively in the rugged pine-lands surrounding the captive herd. In a state-run hunt in late January [2002], Nebraska biologists shot 113 wild deer within a 5-mile radius of the enclosure, 9 of which tested positive. Even better news arrived more recently, when Nebraska and South Dakota workers teamed up to kill 183 animals along the border between the states, and north of the enclosed herd. None of those animals were found with CWD.



Live Animal Test for CWD

Date: 12 December 2001

Source: ENN [edited]

A test for chronic wasting disease that samples tonsil tissue from live mule deer has been developed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife (DOW), providing a new tool to help prevent the spread and reduce the prevalence of the disease in wild and captive deer herds.

The Colorado DOW, working with Colorado State University in Fort Collins and the University of Wyoming in Laramie, began a research project earlier this year to determine if the live test would be accurate and effective. "The availability of a reliable test for diagnosing chronic wasting disease in live mule deer offers us several opportunities for advancing both the understanding and management of this important wildlife disease," said DOW veterinarian Mike Miller, who led the study in collaboration with DOW researcher Tom Hobbs. "Early detection and removal of CWD-infected animals appears to be the most effective method for managing CWD," Miller said. "Selective culling of positive animals and animals in contact with these positive individuals should help reduce the prevalence rates in endemic areas."

Miller cautioned that the new test will not work in all situations and won't replace the current testing of [killed] animals. "Despite some promising aspects, we recognize the test's practical limitations," Miller said. "The need to capture, anesthetize, and precisely sample individual deer limits the broad implementation of this testing approach in managing free-ranging deer populations infected with chronic wasting disease."

The new test on tonsil tissue is more sensitive than examining the brain tissue of animals killed by the illness, the current standard test for chronic wasting disease, because prions congregate in the tonsils early in the disease's development. Testing of tonsil tissue is equally effective in both live deer and deer who have been killed by hunters or during culling efforts.

But the test isn't effective for elk because the disease develops differently in the two species. There still is no live test for elk.

MG in Finches

Date: 1 Jan 2002

Source: NY TIMES, [edited]

In just 7 years, some 180 million house finches, 60 percent of the population, have disappeared from the Eastern United States, the apparent victims of infection by *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. With data gathered by thousands of "citizen scientists" who participate in Project FeederWatch, a continent-wide program organized by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, researchers have been able to track the spread of the disease, which now affects finches throughout the East. From November 1994 to February 1996, participants' data tracked the disease, which originated near Washington and spread from Ontario to Florida and as far west as Missouri.

The disease seems to have "stalled itself out somewhere in the prairies," said Dr. Wesley M. Hochachka, assistant director of bird population studies at the Cornell laboratory. He and the director, Dr. Andre A. Dhondt, suspect the distance between populated areas in the Midwest is great enough to inhibit transfer of the disease among groups of birds. In an article in the autumn issue of *Living Bird*, Dr. Hochachka and his colleagues Dr. Dhondt, Dr. Sonia M. Altizer, and Dr. Barry K. Hartup noted the disease was unusual because it has persisted for so long. While the proximity of birds at feeders may have enabled the infection to spread rapidly, feeders may also turn out to be the birds' salvation. Blinded finches would have trouble finding their own food. But as Dr. Hochachka explained: "Diseased birds spend more time at feeders, and as long as they can get food and water, they can often fight off the infection. The disease itself does not directly kill them, though sitting around a feeder does make them more vulnerable to predators."

Why house finches? It is a mystery being investigated with financing from the NIH, which is interested in the ecology of infectious diseases. The Cornell team is one of 12 groups initially chosen by the institutes and other federal agencies to study how that destruction and pollution affect diseases in humans and wildlife. A scientifically designed survey form was devised to assure that participants [in

Project FeederWatch] sent in data about healthy house finches as well as sick ones, along with data about related species and other visitors to winter feeders. A total of 6 monthly data forms were initially sent to 9000 participants, and within a month, 3212 people had sent in observations. Their data revealed that within 10 months of its discovery, the disease had become well established.

FeederWatch participants continue to look for any signs of spread to other species. Data have already revealed the disease is not disappearing, and its prevalence varies greatly throughout the year, with a peak in fall and winter and a precipitous decline in breeding season. Now a research team of more than 15 collaborators from several institutions is grappling with these and other mysteries to discover more about the winter ecology, behavior and movements of house finches in different parts of their range.

Anyone interested in joining the finch survey can sign up online at birds.cornell.edu/hofi/signup.html or by calling (800) 843-2473.

CWD in Wisconsin

Date: 2 Apr and 8 Apr 2002

Source: Wisconsin DNR News Releases [edited]

Efforts to sample and test 500 white-tailed deer from western Dane and Eastern Iowa counties continued today with wildlife officials reporting they've received notification of 2 more positive cases from the testing laboratory. This brings the total of known CWD-diseased deer in the area to 12. The total number of deer collected by the CWD Sampling Operations Center early Friday morning was 471. Wildlife health specialists are processing the tissue samples rapidly and sending them off to Ames IA for testing. A total of 272 samples have been tested.

Following the discovery on February 28 of three CWD-positive deer killed by hunters in the Mt. Horeb area during the 2001 gun deer hunt, wildlife officials immediately launched an effort to collect 500 deer for testing to determine the extent of the infection in the wild deer herd. The sample area covers a 415 square mile

surveillance area around the site where the infected deer were found. Landowners have provided most of the deer killed for testing.

“The sample size was set and spread out geographically to give us an idea of where the infection might be centered and how far it’s spread,” said DNR veterinarian Sarah Shapiro-Hurley. “We’re all waiting for the rest of the samples to be processed but that will take some time,” said Shapiro-Hurley. “We appreciate the efforts of the USDA-National Veterinary Services Laboratory to expedite processing of our samples, but we can’t say for sure when the additional results will come to us.”

DNR has been testing annually for CWD in wild deer since 1999. Over 1000 deer have been tested so far with all results negative until now. More information can be found on the the DNR Web site: www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/cwd

Whirling Disease-Resistant Trout

Date: 24 Mar 2002

Source: AP Online [edited]

Scientists may be able to partly contain whirling disease with the help of a disease-resistant American trout that has dwelled on the continent for a century. “We have found a fish that was moved to Germany from the US in 1880 or 1890 that is very promising,” said Ronald Hedrick of UC Davis and Mansour El-Matbouli of the University of Munich. “Development of this resistance is presumed to be the result of their growth and reproduction under conditions of continuous exposure to the parasite as the hatcheries use river water and mud-bottomed rearing ponds,” El-Matbouli said. After the resistance was discovered, El-Matbouli exposed the trout to whirling disease. The trout seemed to be able to survive the disease as well as brown trout, long known to be generally resistant.

Hedrick said it is likely to be 4 years before any German trout are placed in US waters, and several issues remain to be resolved. Biologists need to make sure, as best they can, whether imported fish might bring other diseases. Some scientists have expressed concern about how the transplanting of the German fish could affect the gene pool of native trout.

Amphibian Deformities from Parasite

Date: 19 Apr 2002

Source: AScribe Newswire [edited]

An alarming increase of deformities in amphibians in the western United States is probably caused by infection with a parasite, researchers said in a major study released this week. The existence and number of those parasites depends on the presence of a group of snails playing an essential role in the life cycle of the parasite, the study said. And burgeoning populations of those snails, in turn, may be due to alterations of habitat, loss of natural wetlands, and high nutrient levels caused by fertilizers or ranch animal grazing.

The study was published in *Ecological Monographs*, a professional journal of the Ecological Society of America, by Andrews Blaustein and colleagues at Oregon State University and several other universities and agencies. It was based on an analysis of thousands of amphibians from 11 species over a 5-state region. The research also pointed away from the use of pesticides as a causative factor in this problem, finding little association between pesticide presence or levels and the number of amphibian deformities.

In every animal population, the researchers said, a small percentage of individuals (0 to 5%) have physical deformities resulting from genetic mutation, trauma, or other developmental disturbances. But at several sites in the western US, the level of these deformities has been climbing to between 15 per cent and 20 per cent, and in some sites ranges from 50 per cent to 90 per cent. Researchers have shown in laboratory experiments that deformities can be caused at high levels, approaching 100 per cent, by exposure to the parasitic trematode *Ribeiroia ondatrae*, whose larvae infect amphibians near the base of hind limbs and form cysts leading to limb malformations.

What is now becoming clearer is the elaborate life cycle of this parasite and the mechanisms by which it may affect amphibians. The life cycle at various times includes an amphibian or fish; a bird or mammal; and aquatic snails, usually of the genus *Planorbella*. The tissues of the snails are where the parasite’s eggs actually develop and reproduce.

Date: 23 Apr 2002

From: Conor Kretsch Conor.Kretsch@enviros.com

It is premature and inaccurate to state that the cause of this wildlife issue has been identified -- a possible cause, one of many, has been postulated and as yet remains to be proven, nothing more. Note that many of the deformities which have been noted in wild frogs in the United States and elsewhere are congenital or occur very early in embryonic development. The parasite mentioned generally causes deformities after infecting young tadpoles, froglets, or young adults, at a stage when the abnormalities may already be developing. In a previous study carried out by researchers at the USDA, University of Louisville, Kentucky and others, a clear link was found between the increasing incidence of deformities in frogs in the US, and the presence of endocrine disrupting compounds (EDCs) originating from sewage effluents discharged to the watercourse in which the frogs lived.

Evidence for the biochemical and genetic nature of the abnormalities was also determined.

In other well-known international studies, abnormalities, population declines, and extinctions of previously abundant amphibians has been linked to fungal and viral infections, climate change, and pollution. It is possible that EDCs may have the effect of enhancing parasitic infectivity, or altering normal amphibian immune responses or resistance to infection, but it must be noted that there are several factors which may be involved.

The parasites may be taking advantage of already weakened animals—their presence may be linked to deformities, but they may not be the cause. Furthermore, on many zoological and biological grounds, the suggestion of the researchers that parasite numbers have boomed due to increase in snail populations due to changes in habitat etc. is dubious. For example, fresh water eutrophication, which causes increase in algal blooms, usually leads to decreases in snail populations, not increases, by altering the dissolved oxygen and CO₂ content of the water and releasing toxins upon decay.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Jun 8 Inaugural Conference of the Dutch Society for Wildlife Health (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). The conference theme is the complex relationship between environmental parameters and wildlife and human health in the Netherlands. For more info, contact J.T. Lumeij at J.T.Lumeij@vet.uu.nl.

Jun 9-12 First International Meeting of Wildlife and Zoo Virology - "Encroachment on Wildlife ecosystems: new and re-emerging viral epidemics" (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). This meeting is focused on the consequences of altering ecosystems, with sessions on transmission between wildlife and domestic species, threats to biodiversity and human health, epidemiological consequences of ecology changes, and wildlife population die-offs. For more info, contact J.T.Lumeij@vet.uu.nl or visit www.wildlife2002.nl.

Jun 10-14 Fourth Annual International Conference on Exotics (Key West, FL). For more info, contact ICE2002 (800) 946-4782 or at info@exoticdvm.com

Jul 13-17 AVMA Annual Meeting (Nashville, TN). For more info, contact AVMA Headquarters at (800) 248-2862 or at www.avma.org/conv/default2002.

Jul 14-18 Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology (Canterbury, UK). For more info, contact Nigel Leader-Williams, at scb2002@ukc.ac.uk or visit www.ukc.ac.uk/anthropology/dice/scb2002/.

Jul 28-Aug 1 Fifty-first Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association (Arcata, CA). Special sessions are being planned on Preparing for Emerging Wildlife Diseases and Diseases of Wild Sheep. For more info, contact Rick Botzler at (707)826-3724 or RGB2@humboldt.edu or visit www.humboldt.edu/~wda.

Aug 21-25 Second European Wildlife and Zoo Animal Pathology Workshop (Berlin, Germany). For more info, contact Dr. Kai Frolich, IZW, Postfach 601103,10252 Berlin, Germany.

Oct 6-10 Thirty-fifth Annual AAZV Conference (Milwaukee, WI). Sessions include Reptiles and Amphibians, Avian Medicine, Hoofstock, Carnivores, Primates, Case Reports, Aquatic Animals, Pathology, Conservation Medicine, Emerging Diseases, Reproduction and Contraception, Behavior, Enrichment and Conditioning, and Biomaterial Banking. There will also be a poster session, veterinary and graduate student paper competitions, and workshops/wet labs. For conference information, contact Wilbur Amand at (610) 892-4812 or aazv@aol.com or visit www.aazv.org.

Oct 17-24 Ninth Annual ARAV Conference (Reno, NV). In association with the Wild West Veterinary Conference. For more info, contact Wilbur Amand at (610) 892-4812 or arav@aol.com or visit www.arav.org.

Oct 17-24 One hundred-sixth Annual USAHA Conference (St. Louis, MO). For more info, contact the USAHA office at (804) 285-3210 or usaha@usaha.org or visit www.usaha.org/meetings.

Nov. 1-2 Eleventh Annual Midwestern Exotic Animal Medicine Conference (Manhattan, KS). Topics include surgery, medicine and diagnostic techniques used in companion birds, reptiles and small exotic mammals. For more info, contact James Carpenter at (785) 532-5690 or carpentr@vet.ksu.edu.

Western Spread of WNV

Date: 9 Jan 2002

Source: USA Today [edited]

West Nile virus is likely to spread to the Rocky Mountains or farther west this year, scientists say. Since it first appeared in New York City, WNV has been detected in more than 80 species of birds, 22 species of mosquito as well as in horses, bats, cats, rabbits, and other animals. It has been found in 27 states and the District of Columbia. The spread of West Nile virus, which has reached as far west as Missouri and Arkansas, mirrors bird migration patterns, says Robert McLean, director of the National Wildlife Health Center. While the virus kills crows and jays by the thousands, it doesn't harm most species of migrating birds, which mingle in Mexico and Central America during the winter, then carry the virus back north and west in springtime. McLean predicts this year the birds will bring West Nile virus to Texas and the Rocky Mountains or "directly to the West Coast."

JOB AND TRAINING OPPS

Veterinary Internship in Wildlife Medicine

Where: Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), on the Sanibel Island along the Gulf Coast of Florida

Description: This one-year veterinary internship is designed to enhance clinical skills and introduce the intern to wildlife medicine (with an emphasis on wildlife rehabilitation) at a hospital that which admits approximately 3000 patients a year representing nearly 200 different species... The intern is supervised by the full-time staff veterinarian and participates in all aspects of clinical work including diagnostics, medical treatment, radiology, anesthesia, surgery and necropsy. The intern also assists in teaching all student externs. On-island housing is provided in addition to a stipend and benefits.

Requirements: DVM or equivalent and a strong interest in wildlife rehabilitation. The position rotates every July 1st.

For more info: Dr. PJ Deitschel, Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc., PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957; (941) 472-3644

Coordinator, Resource Assessment Program

Where: Wildlife Health Center, University of California, Davis, CA

Description: The Coordinator of this collaborative program between the California Department of Fish and Game and the Wildlife Health Center will help to develop and implement a resource assessment strategy for fish, wildlife, native plants, and natural communities to protect the unique natural resources of the state. The Coordinator will work directly with regional DFG staff to recruit and hire field personnel to survey and monitor plants, animals, and natural communities at diverse study sites throughout the state, will directly participate in wildlife and ecosystem health research and management projects, network with researchers and stakeholders, and assist the WHC and DFG with long-term program development.

Requirements: An advanced degree (preferably PhD, but MS considered) in the biological sciences or a DVM degree with research experience or extensive practical knowledge of conservation and natural resources; a demonstrated commitment to conservation; a good working knowledge of California wildlife and wildlands; and a solid understanding of field research. Previous research or management experience in applied conservation, species/habitat restoration, and/or natural resources assessment is desirable.

For more info: Kathy Collins, Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis, CA 95616, kacollins@ucdavis.edu.

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- \$25.00 Veterinarian (Active)
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- \$25.00 Subscribing (Non-veterinarians & institutions)

Check box if you are currently a member of any of the following organizations:

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Mail membership form to: Dr. Kirsten Gilardi
Wildlife Health Center
One Shields Avenue
University of California
Davis, CA 95616

Articles, notices, and letters to the editor are welcome.

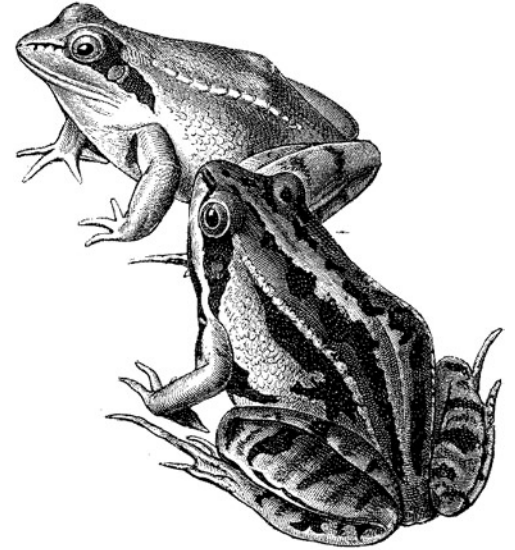
Deadline for submission is

August 1, 2002.

Please submit to

Michael Ziccardi at

mhziccardi@ucdavis.edu



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

ID #020C

SPRING 2002 NEWSLETTER

Davis, CA 95616 USA

University of California

One Shields Ave.

c/o Wildlife Health Center

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