



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

WINTER 2006

AAZV/AAWV COMMITTEE ON WILDLIFE HEALTH AND CONSERVATION—MINUTES

By Jonathan Sleeman (edited)

October 20, 2005, Omaha Nebraska.

As Vice-President of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV), Jonathan Sleeman has been appointed as co-chair of this committee, along with American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) member Scott Larsen from UC Davis. Dr. Sleeman reviewed and explained the mission of the committee and then opened a discussion concerning the charge of the committee to the floor.

The following ideas on linking AAWV and AAZV and on the charge of the committee were suggested:

1. It was suggested that members of AAZV should be strongly encouraged to join AAWV and vice versa. The possibility of including an AAWV membership sign-up notice as part of the AAZV membership reminder letter will be explored, as well as the possibility of AAZV collecting these dues and forwarding them to the AAWV. The AAZV membership list could also be shared with the AAWV so that the AAWV can solicit AAZV members for AAWV membership.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Kirsten Gilardi

I have to admit that penning a President's Corner piece for the AAWV Newsletter is a bit of an out-of-body experience: I have been reading these messages from the AAWV President for 15+ years now, since I joined the organization as a first-year veterinary student at UC Davis, and now it's me doing the writing. Is it really me this time?

Truthfully, it is an absolute thrill and an honor to have been elected President of this organization. Seventeen (!) years ago, having just decided to apply to veterinary school, I pestered Dave Jessup to sit down with me for an hour and tell me about wildlife medicine and what wildlife veterinarians do. Since then, the AAWV community of wildlife health professionals is one that I have aspired to emulate and have been hugely proud to be a part of. Many of you have been — and continue to be — advisors, mentors, colleagues and friends, and I can't think of a more meaningful purpose or ethic around which to build community.

In my upcoming two years of service, I will use these President's Corner pieces to let you know what I am doing as President, and what the organization is accomplishing for you as members, and for wildlife. I have several items to report to you here:

- **Advisory Council formed:** The AAWV Advisory Council is constitutionally mandated as a 5-9 member council, appointed by the President, which serves as the consulting group for the AAWV Board of Governors (which is comprised of the elected officers). The immediate-past president serves as chairperson of the council, and seats on the Council are reserved for the Editor of the AAWV Newsletter, the AAWV Webmaster, and a student representative. The 2005-2007 AAWV Advisory Council is comprised of the following AAWV members: David Jessup (Chairperson); Leslie Dierauf, Dean Goeldner, David Hunter, Nadine Lamberski, Mark Atkinson, Mike Ziccardi, Jordan Mencher, and a student to be named.
- **New joint AAZV/AAWV Committee on Wildlife Health and Conservation:** The signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) in October 2005 has led to the establishment of a new committee of the AAZV, called the Committee on Wildlife Health and Conservation. The chairmanship of this committee will be

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jointly shared by the standing AAWV Vice-President, currently Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, and an AAZV member appointed by the AAZV President, currently Dr. Scott Larsen. Both Jonathan and Scott are members of both the AAWV and the AAZV. See Jonathan's report on the first meeting of this committee in this newsletter.

- **AAWV Associate Editor on the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine:** Another element of the MOA with the AAZV is the designation of a new Associate Editor for Conservation and Free-ranging Wildlife on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Zoo

and Wildlife Medicine, which is to be filled by an individual who belongs to both the AAWV and the AAZV. I am pleased to report that Terry Norton, St. Catherine's Island Foundation, has agreed to serve as the JZWM's first Associate Editor for Conservation and Free-ranging Wildlife.

- **New AAWV Newsletter Editor:** Jordan Mencher has agreed to take over the reins as AAWV Newsletter editor from Joe Gaydos, who has served as editor since 2003. Jordan earned his DVM from Tufts University, has worked in mixed-animal private practice for several years, and earned a Master's degree in Wildlife Science at the University of Washington through the USGS, working with Tonie Rocke on oral and parenteral vaccination strategies against plague infection in black tailed prairie dogs and black footed ferrets. Huge thanks to Jordan for agreeing to take on this important position within the organization, and also a really huge thanks to Joe Gaydos for having done a terrific job with our newsletter over the last 3 years!
- **North American Healthy Wildlife Initiative:** The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) held its annual meeting jointly with the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnostics in Hershey, PA November 3 - 9, 2005. The USAHA is a science-based, voluntary organization whose membership includes state, federal and international animal and public health agencies, allied industry and professional organizations and individual members representing academia, animal owners and animal health professionals. The AAWV is an allied member of USAHA and has a seat on the USAHA Board of Directors. More than ever before, the 2005 USAHA meeting was notably focused on wildlife health, with very well-attended meetings of the Committee on Wildlife Diseases, Committee on Captive Wildlife and Alternative Livestock, and a USDA-ARS Wildlife Animal Health Research Review. Most importantly, the USAHA and AAVLD co-sponsored a scientific plenary session entitled "North American Healthy Wildlife Initiative." The Committee on Wildlife Diseases passed a resolution for consideration by the USAHA Executive Committee, calling for support for the development and implementation of a National Fish and Wildlife Health Plan by an inclusive working group of appropriate governmental and non-governmental organizations under the leadership of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. The AAWV voted to support this resolution both in Committee and at the November 9, 2005 meeting of the USAHA Board of Directors. The AAWV intends to be actively engaged in this planning process.

Lastly, in light of our 2004 vote rejecting merger with the AAZV to form a new, joint organization, I have set the following goals for my first year as President that I hope will facilitate this renewed and expressed desire of the membership to remain an autonomous organization of free-ranging wildlife health professionals:

- **Vastly improve the timely renewal of membership by all members:** We have had a chronic problem with receiving renewal dues from members. This is in part because we do not have a business management entity (e.g. Allen Press, or a hired Executive Director) to automatically generate dues reminder notices and payment envelopes. I will work with AAWV officers, Advisory Council and members to create and implement a better system for maintaining all members as current, paid members.
- **Conduct a first-ever assessment of AAWV members:** AAWV members have not ever been formally queried as to their wishes, needs, concerns and ideas as members. We will write and distribute a membership survey, collate your input, and present a report at the 2006 Annual Business Meeting. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ the Introduction on page 5 then COMPLETE THE SURVEY FORM that follows.

I am looking forward to serving the organization these next two years, and just want to remind you that I welcome your calls and emails anytime: kvgilardi@ucdavis.edu, or 530-752-4896.

Cheers,
Kirsten Gilardi

AAWV NEWSLETTER

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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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AAWV EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER AVMA SUPPORT OF LEG-HOLD TRAP BILL

By Kirsten Gilardi, AAWV President

The AAWV submitted the following letter to the AVMA leadership in late January, expressing concern for the AVMA's support of H.R. 3442, the Inhumane Trapping Prevention Act. Our letter presented the AAWV with an opportunity to demonstrate how our organization can provide the AVMA with input and comments on wildlife-related policy. The bill will likely be discussed at upcoming meetings of the AVMA Committee on Environmental Issues, and the Committee on Animal Welfare.

January 31, 2006

Dr. Henry Childers, President
Dr. Roger Mahr, President-Elect
Dr. Robert (Bud) Herzog, Executive Board Chair
American Veterinary Medical Association
1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100
Schaumburg, IL 60173

Dear Dr. Childers and Dr. Mahr:

The leadership of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV) would like to express its concern regarding the American Veterinary Medical Association's support position for the "Inhumane Trapping Prevention Act" (H.R. 3442). We are concerned that the AVMA's position on this bill does not reflect current scientific knowledge and wildlife veterinary perspectives, nor does it acknowledge the profound impacts this bill would have on wildlife research, management and conservation in the United States. In an era of heightened national and global awareness and concern for the role that wildlife populations can play in the emergence and occurrence of zoonotic diseases in animals and humans - when veterinarians, physicians and scientists will require all available knowledge and tools to better understand and manage diseases in wildlife - the effort to ban use of leghold traps in the United States is both short-sighted and dangerous.

Our specific concerns regarding H.R. 3442 include the fact that the bill fails to enumerate the multiple legitimate uses of leghold traps for wildlife management and research purposes; it fails to distinguish between modified padded-jaw leghold traps that can be used humanely and effectively in many species, and the more old-fashioned serrated-jaw leghold traps (which have not been commercially available for decades) that can be more injurious; it fails to recognize that for some species (for example the gray wolf and the river otter) there are no effective or humane substitutes for leghold traps; and lastly, it does not acknowledge that the use of killing traps instead of leghold traps does not allow wildlife managers and researchers to release non-target species or pets, or to save their lives. Indeed, the use of leghold traps is recognized, accepted and endorsed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), The Wildlife Society, and many other organizations and agencies.

We request that instead of supporting H.R. 3442, the AVMA acknowledge the concerns and needs of wildlife veterinary constituency by supporting current efforts by IAFWA in drafting recommendations for best management practices regarding trap use (e.g. more frequent trap checks, selective baiting), the continued development of improved trap technologies (improved swiveling, shock-absorbing springs, surface padding, etc), and an increased emphasis on trapper education. These recommendations can be viewed at www.furbearermgmt.org.

Currently, the AAWV shares representation with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) on the AVMA's Animal Welfare and Environmental Issues Committees, and we have enjoyed the opportunity to provide input on important issues through our work on these committees. More frequent communications and closer involvement in discussions on wildlife-related issues and topics will ensure that the AVMA's positions and policies better reflect what is needed for the conservation, management and welfare of wild animals, wildlife populations and the ecosystems on which they depend.

I can be reached at the above letterhead address and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Gilardi, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
President, American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians

cc: Paul Barrows, AVMA Committee on Environmental Issues
Michael Chaddock, AVMA Governmental Relations Division Director
Rob Hilsenroth, Executive Director, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
Mark Lutschaunig, AVMA Governmental Relations Division
Michele Miller, President, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
Tim Reichard, AVMA Committee on Animal Welfare

Wildlife veterinarian Briggs Hall retires

By Kristin Mansfield

Briggs Hall served as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) first veterinarian for over 13 years. He began his career with WDFW volunteering his services on wildlife captures. Eventually hired to help the department deal with disease concerns related to captive farming of wildlife, Briggs went on to assist the department with many aspects of wildlife diseases and wildlife capture. From mountain goats to marine birds; black-tailed deer to bears; and caribou to cougars, Briggs made many contributions towards bettering our understanding of diseases in these populations, and towards developing safer and more efficient capture methods for these species. His initial description and studies of hair-loss syndrome in black-tailed deer serve as an example of his contribution towards our understanding of a new and significant disease of wildlife.

Although not as well known, a middle-of-the-night experience while camped in Washington's backcountry on a mountain goat capture also won Briggs the distinction of being elected the department's unofficial Sasquach expert. Briggs never got to immobilize a Sasquach, but he did give an interview to a reputable film company that made a Bigfoot documentary.

When I first came to work as the second veterinarian for WDFW, one of the first things I noticed was how well-loved and respected Briggs was by others in the Department. And after spending some time working with him myself, the reasons quickly became clear. When helping wildlife biologists, officers, and others in the field, Briggs always worked as a partner in dealing with the issue at hand, and never exhibited a superior or authoritarian attitude just because he was the veterinarian. He freely shared information and patiently answered questions whenever he was asked. His laid-back, no-nonsense approach to things earned him the trust and friendship of just about everyone who had the good fortune to work with him. His low-key demeanor and ever-present dry sense of humor kept everyone at ease and in good spirits under the most difficult capture situations and through the longest days. Briggs has been a good friend, teacher, and role model and I'm very grateful that I've had the opportunity to work with him. I think that most others in the department share this sentiment.

Briggs loves hunting, fishing, gardening, backpacking and spending time with his family. But he can't seem to get wildlife out of his blood, and is still (fortunately for us!) doing contract work for WDFW. He will have no trouble keeping himself busy now that he's "retired."

AAWV to sponsor three symposia in 2006

By Jonathan Sleeman

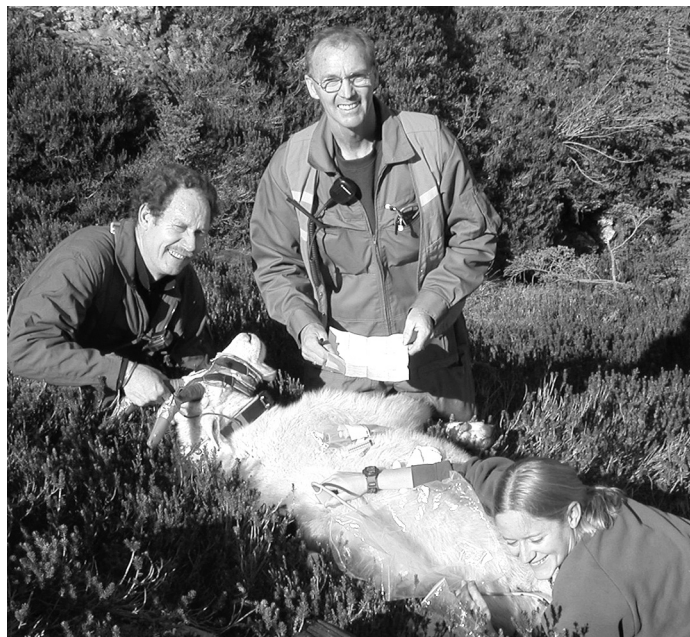
The AAWV will sponsor an unprecedented number of symposia and scientific sessions at various international meetings this year.

First, we will hold a joint session with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) at the International Wildlife Diseases Association (WDA) annual meeting at the University of Connecticut, Storrs during 6-11 August, 2006. The session is entitled "Advancing Global Health: Linking Captive and Free-Ranging Wildlife Health" and all members are encouraged to submit abstracts. During the conference, the AAWV will also sponsor a cutting edge speaker and hold its annual business meeting. Go to www.AAWV.net/meetings.html or www.wildlifedisease.org/meetings.htm for more details.

Secondly, the AAWV will chair a scientific session at the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians Annual Meeting at Tampa, Florida during 20-24 September, 2006. The session is entitled "Wildlife Health and Conservation" and is named after the new joint AAWV/AAZV committee. Deadline for submission of titles to session chairs is 24 February, 2006. More details can be found at www.aazv.org/aazv_conf_info.htm.

Finally, the AAWV and WDA will hold a joint symposium entitled "Disease Impacts on Wildlife Management and Conservation Efforts" at The Wildlife Society meeting in Anchorage, Alaska during 23-27 September, 2006. Various internationally recognized speakers have been selected to provide conference attendees with a breadth of presentations on wildlife disease issues and situations which are impacting terrestrial, aquatic, and marine wildlife management and conservation efforts worldwide. More details can be found at www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm.

The AAWV is very proud to be working with our professional colleagues to bring the latest developments in wildlife health research to as wide an audience as possible. 2006 is going to be a busy year, and we encourage all AAWV members to participate.



Briggs Hall (center) works on an immobilized goat in Washington state.

2006 AAWV MEMBERSHIP SURVEY—AN INTRODUCTION

...but first, a little history

The American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians was formed in 1979 by a small group of veterinarians with a common interest in free-ranging wildlife. Whether they were working as veterinarians for state agencies or as faculty at universities, founding members were compelled to establish an organization that would serve as a community of like-minded individuals who could share and discuss ideas, give wildlife veterinarians a unified voice on local, regional and national policy issues, and promote wildlife veterinary medicine as a distinct discipline within the overall veterinary profession.

In the 25+ years since its inception, the AAWV has grown (our current membership hovers around 200): Annual dues are still one of the best deals in town, and the organization continues to be run by a dedicated group of volunteers serving in elected positions. We are affiliated with several other professional organizations, like the Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV), and come together as an organization at least once a year at our annual business meeting.

In 2004, 60% of our membership voted in support of a proposal to merge with the AAZV to form a new, larger organization—an indication that many members were interested in seeing the AAWV fundamentally change from what it had always been. However, a significant portion of the membership did *not* support this proposal—an indication that many members wanted the AAWV to remain intact and distinct as an organization.

The 2004 election prompted all voting members of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians to ask ourselves some fundamental questions: Why did we join the AAWV? What does this organization mean to me and do for me? How do we benefit from membership, and what else could the organization be doing for its members? How might the organization be better if it was different, and how might it be less valuable for us if it changed? Why are we members of the AAWV?

Unfortunately, election rules and the logistics of balloting did not allow us to capture your ruminations on this issue, but what a golden opportunity that would have been to collect and collate your ideas and thoughts on the organization. Before some of those thoughts are completely erased from your memories, we want to take advantage of the brainpower in this organization to get your ideas on how to refresh and revitalize our mission, our operations and focuses, and our long-term strategy.

...and now, please take our survey

The purpose of the 2006 AAWV Membership Survey is to check in with YOU, our member. Who are you? Where do you work? What do you do? Why are you a member of the AAWV? What does the AAWV do for you, and what could it do better? What should we look like in five years? In 10 or 20 years?

All AAWV members — active, student, associate or subscribing: please take time to complete this survey. Be free and easy with that pen or that keyboard, and give us your vision for the AAWV, your

ideas on how the AAWV could be a stronger organization that best serves its members. You will be rewarded for your efforts — not only with an organization that is well-tuned to the interests and needs of its members, but with a FREE GIFT!! So please take a few minutes out of your busy schedules to complete this survey. *The results of this survey will be presented at our 2006 Annual Business Meeting and will be included in our Fall 2006 newsletter.*

-Kirsten Gilardi, AAWV President

AAWV Objectives

- * To enhance the contribution of veterinary medicine to the welfare of the wildlife resource;
- * To encourage and promote a philosophy of animal management and preventative medicine as it relates to free-ranging species;
- * To encourage an increased emphasis in colleges of veterinary medicine relative to management and preventative medicine of free-ranging species;
- * To encourage the recognition of disease syndromes in their broadest sense as potentially influenced by habitat succession, alteration and pollution;
- * To educate and gain rapport with government agencies and wildlife resource interest groups concerning the importance of wildlife preventative medicine and disease in relation to the wildlife resource and domestic species;
- * To educate and inform governmental agencies and wildlife resource interest groups of support and educational services which may be provided by wildlife veterinarians;
- * To promote and encourage the utilization of veterinarians in the field of wildlife resource management and research;
- * To encourage cooperative efforts among resource management professionals and wildlife veterinarians;
- * To stress the importance of the inter-relationships of human, domestic animals and wildlife as reservoirs of disease; and
- * To help establish and work for continuing education programs for wildlife veterinarians.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2006

After completing the survey, please detach from your newsletter, fold it so the return address shows, tape it closed (Please no staples), apply 39¢ postage and mail by May 1, 2006. Alternatively, you may download this survey as a .pdf from our website, fill it out, and mail it in.

1. What is your educational background/professional training? (check all that apply)

- BSc
- Msc/MA
- PhD
- DVM/VMD
- MD
- MPH/MPVM
- Board certification; specify College or Board:

- Other/Additional: _____

2. Where do you work? (check the one that best describes your present position; use the comments/notes box to provide detail or further explanation as you wish).

- State wildlife resource agency
 - State agricultural agency
 - Federal wildlife resource agency
 - Federal agricultural agency
 - Academic Institution
 - Zoological institution/aquarium
 - Wildlife rehabilitation organization
 - Non-governmental organization
 - Domestic animal private practice
 - Veterinary student
 - Other: _____

- Comments/Notes: _____

3. In your position, how is your time allocated? Describe the time you spend on the following activities, expressed as a percentage of work time (your percentages should add up to 100); use the comments/notes box to provide detail or further explanation as you wish.

- Research
- Teaching
- Zoo/wildlife clinical medicine and surgery
- Domestic animal clinical medicine and surgery
- Disease surveillance
- Wildlife capture
- Wildlife management
- Regulatory (e.g. site visits, permitting, disease testing)
- Student/Resident training (either research or clinical)

(continued next column)

- Staff supervision
- Media outreach
- Professional service (e.g. committee work, elected office duties, editorial work)
- Development/fundraising
- Project/program administration
- Other/additional: _____

Comments/Notes _____

4. What species do you work on? Using the following groups of animals, please specify the proportion of time spent on each as a % of all the animals you work on. If applicable, clarify whether these are free-ranging or captive animals, or if you work on both. Use the comments/notes box to provide detail or further explanation as you wish. If you are a zoo clinician, simply check the "zoological collections" box, which we will assume means a variety of terrestrial and aquatic species.

TAXON	FREE-RANGING	CAPTIVE
Birds:		
Waterfowl/aquatic		
Raptors		
Passerines		
Others:		
Carnivores		
Small mammals		
Marine mammals		
Cervids		
Other hoofstock		
Feral species		
Non-human primates		
Reptiles/amphibians		
Fish		
Zoological collections		
Others:		

Comments/Notes: _____

5. If you do not work with animals or conduct research or disease surveillance in a particular taxa, what do you do? Check all that apply; explain in the comments/notes box.

- Attend veterinary school
- Direct an organization or institution
- Administer program(s) at an academic institution, or for a non-profit organization

(continued next page)

- Media relations (write for newspapers, magazine, web, television)
- Implement/write policy
- Other: _____

Comments/notes: _____

6. What other professional organizations do you belong to? (check all that apply)

- Wildlife Disease Association
- American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
- International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine
- The Wildlife Society
- American Veterinary Medical Association
- Your state's Veterinary Medical Association
- Alliance of Veterinarians for the Environment
- Other(s): _____

7. Why did you join the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians? Score each reason below on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the most important reason or best explanation for why you joined, and 1 being the least important reason/poorest explanation. You may give the same numerical score to more than one answer.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Because I am a wildlife veterinarian
- 1 2 3 4 5 I wanted to "connect" with other professionals in my field
- 1 2 3 4 5 Because it helps my credentials as a wildlife veterinarian to be a member
- 1 2 3 4 5 I wanted to learn more about wildlife veterinary medicine as a field of expertise
- 1 2 3 4 5 I wanted to stay current on disease issues pertaining to wildlife
- 1 2 3 4 5 I wanted to have a "say" on policy issues
- 1 2 3 4 5 I thought it would be a good way of finding out about employment opportunities
- 1 2 3 4 5 My supervisor/advisor/mentor told me I should
- 1 2 3 4 5 My friends are members
- 1 2 3 4 5 AAWV membership is more affordable than membership in other organizations
- 1 2 3 4 5 Other reasons: _____

Comments/notes: _____

8. The importance and value of the following activities of the AAWV for me are as follows, with 5 being of most importance/value, and 1 being of least importance/value.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Newsletter production
- 1 2 3 4 5 Website
- 1 2 3 4 5 Email mass-messaging to members
- 1 2 3 4 5 Annual business meetings
- 1 2 3 4 5 Leading the Wildlife Veterinary Section of the Wildlife Disease Association
- 1 2 3 4 5 Sponsorship of symposia and sessions at professional meetings
- 1 2 3 4 5 Paying reduced registration at professional meetings that we co-sponsor
- 1 2 3 4 5 Crafting and having access to AAWV position statements
- 1 2 3 4 5 Having an editorial position at the Journal of Zoo and Wildlife Medicine (new)
- 1 2 3 4 5 Chairing the Committee on Conservation and Wildlife Health at the AAZV (new)
- 1 2 3 4 5 Having representation on the AVMA's Board of Governors with the AAZV
- 1 2 3 4 5 Having representation on the US Animal Health Association Board of Directors
- 1 2 3 4 5 Other(s): _____

Comments/notes: _____

9. I think the AAWV would better serve me as a member, and serve our profession, if it had or did the following, with actions marked as 5 being of most value, and actions marked 1 being of least value.

- 1 2 3 4 5 A business manager
- 1 2 3 4 5 More opportunities for members to communicate with each other (e.g. a list serve)
- 1 2 3 4 5 A membership directory
- 1 2 3 4 5 More "branding" and visibility
- 1 2 3 4 5 More opportunities to get involved with the organization as a member volunteer
- 1 2 3 4 5 More revenue (i.e. increased dues, or other methods of raising funds)
- 1 2 3 4 5 Increased international membership
- 1 2 3 4 5 Other ideas: _____

Comments/notes: _____

10. If over the next 3-4 years, the AAWV were to focus on two or three major areas of expansion in pursuit of its objectives, or make significant changes in the way the organization is structured or functions, they should be the following, with actions marked as 5 being of most value, and actions marked 1 being of least value.

- 1 2 3 4 5 Increased membership
- 1 2 3 4 5 Paid staff (e.g. a business manager)
- 1 2 3 4 5 More advocacy at the state and federal level for issues pertinent to our profession
- 1 2 3 4 5 Increased communications to and among members
- 1 2 3 4 5 More commitment to student outreach and training
- 1 2 3 4 5 More opportunities to come together as members
- 1 2 3 4 5 Other activities: _____

 Comments/notes: _____

11. I would prefer receiving the AAWV Newsletter electronically (as a pdf file):

- Yes
- No

Please use the space below to write any additional thoughts, observations, ideas, criticisms, advice.

Thank you for completing this survey! So that we may collate results and present them at our annual business meeting in August, please return these surveys by May 1, 2006.

We will send you a token of appreciation for having taken the time to give thought to our organization. Please provide your mailing address:

Name*: _____
 Affiliation: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____
 Zipcode: _____

* Name is optional; if you'd like to remain anonymous, simply write "AAWV member."

FOLD HERE

**DR. KIRSTEN GILARDI
 WILDLIFE HEALTH CENTER
 ONE SHIELDS AVENUE
 SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 DAVIS, CA 95616**



return address

Suspected avian cholera, snow geese in Arkansas

Source: Promed, 13 Jan 2006

A suspected outbreak of avian cholera has killed 1300 to 1500 snow geese and a smaller number of Ross' geese at Bald Knob National Wildlife Refuge in north-central Arkansas, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials. The refuge is 2 miles south of Bald Knob in White County on the White River. It covers 14,800 acres and is the newest of the Arkansas national wildlife refuges, created in 1993. Refuge workers found the dead and dying geese Monday, according to Dennis Widner, head of the agency's East Arkansas refuges that also include Cache River, Wapanocca and Big Lake.

The U.S. Geological Survey Wildlife Health Center in Madison, Wis., and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine have been contacted about the die-off. Based on the description of symptoms provided by the refuge biologists, experts from both locations suspected avian cholera. Dr. Lou Sileo, a wildlife pathologist from the National Wildlife Health Center, made a tentative field diagnosis of avian cholera. Specimens have also been collected and shipped to the NWHC for complete necropsies and laboratory confirmation.

Outbreaks of avian cholera are fairly common, especially in California, Texas and Oklahoma, and occur among many waterfowl species. In the past 6 years, there have been 41 outbreaks of avian cholera across the United States that killed nearly 70,000 geese, ducks, grebes and other species.

Snow geese populations have greatly expanded in the past 2 decades. Waterfowl biologists are concerned that the large numbers of snow geese are destroying the prime nesting habitat for all bird species and other wildlife in the Hudson Bay area of Canada. Concentrations of wintering snow geese continue to grow each year in Arkansas and surrounding states. Fish and Wildlife officials said the growth could be a contributing factor to infection outbreaks. Another factor may be reduced habitat from lack of rain

that concentrates flocks onto smaller wetlands, increasing the transmission of disease. The Fish and Wildlife Service has liberalized snow geese hunting regulations to reduce the size of their populations and thin out the number of birds on the breeding grounds in Canada and the effects on other species.

CWD appears in a new Illinois county

Source: Promed, 12 Jan 2005

Sixteen additional cases of chronic wasting disease (CWD) have been detected in northern Illinois through sampling of hunter-harvested deer during the state's 2005-06 deer seasons. The cases include 2 deer taken by hunters in Ogle County, the first time CWD has been detected there. It had previously been confined to counties of Boone, Winnebago, McHenry and the northern portion of DeKalb. The disease was first discovered in Illinois in November 2002, and to date Illinois has detected 112 positive cases.

"We were somewhat surprised to find these 2 cases in Ogle County because no cases had been detected there previously despite very intensive sampling," said Paul Shelton, manager of the IDNR Forest Wildlife Program. "We've sampled nearly 2000 deer in Ogle County since 2003 and these are the only 2 cases we have found there to date. We are still awaiting the results of approximately 350 other samples from Ogle County taken this fall."

Illinois biologists have collected samples from more than 2500 deer in 7 northern Illinois counties so far during the 2005-06 firearm and archery deer seasons and from suspect animals reported to the IDNR. Illinois expanded its chronic wasting disease surveillance effort in 2002 following the discovery of CWD in neighboring Wisconsin. Confirmed CWD cases by county are: Boone (53), Winnebago (42), McHenry (9), DeKalb (6) and Ogle (2).

Parvovirus in Yellowstone National Park wolf pups

Source: Promed, 8 Jan 2005

Most of the gray wolf pups born in Yellowstone National Park last year [2005] have died from possible parvovirus infection. Just 22 of the 69 pups born last year are still alive, said Doug Smith, the park's wolf project leader. That's the biggest drop in pup numbers since wolves were reintroduced into the park 11 years ago. The greatest toll was seen on the park's northern range, where only 8 of the 49 pups born last spring survived. During the next few weeks officials plan to catch Yellowstone pups and take blood samples for diagnostics. Though vaccinations are an option, it would be difficult in the park. Terry Kreeger, supervisor of veterinary services for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, said that while parvovirus could have a noticeable effect for years on wolf populations, he doesn't believe it will be devastating. It could, however, have implications for how wolves are managed: the gray wolf is federally protected, but Wyoming officials are seeking more control over the predators amid complaints that the growing wolf population poses a threat to wildlife, livestock and pets.

The number of wolves in Yellowstone dropped last year [2005] from 171 to 118. The largest single-year drop before that was 11, from 1998 to 1999, when parvovirus also was suspected.



Undiagnosed mortality, Cuvier's beaked whales - Spain

Source: *MarMamm*, Jan 2006

The Spanish Cetacean Society (SEC) reports that 4 Cuvier's Beaked Whales (*Ziphius cavirostris*) were stranded in the Gulf of Vera on the SE coast of Spain. On 26-01-2006 2 beaked whales stranded in the coast of Mojacar; the animals were alive and died during the night. The following morning a third animal was found, already dead, about 5 km from the other two. The fourth was found a few km north from the first three, already dead, on the afternoon of the 27th.

Examination by members of the Department of Pathology at the University of Las Palmas de Gran Canarias revealed that the first three animals found were 2 females (one adult and one probable subadult) and one adult male. The adult female had signs of a possible recent pregnancy, but the calf has not been found. The fourth animal has been difficult to reach and has not yet been fully examined, but appears to be an adult male. Laboratory analysis will continue through next week.

Cross-species wildlife mortality in Costa Rica

Source: ProMED (edited)

In December, officials closed Costa Rica's Corcovado National Park, a prime tourist attraction, because a variety of wildlife have been found dead. The dead include monkeys, toucans, and sloths. The last time monkeys started dying on such a massive scale in the park was in the 1950s, said Edwardo Carrillo, the head researcher in the investigative team that is looking into the deaths. The culprit then was yellow fever, he said. But yellow fever does not affect birds.

Carrillo said that perhaps as many as half of the monkey population at the park have died. The location is a peninsula in south west Costa Rica in Central America. The park is 110 000 acres and contains 4 species of monkeys.

Initially, officials tried to downplay the situation. In signing the order for the park's closure on 3 Dec 2005, director Alvaro Ugalde would say no more than that animals were dying, though he didn't know how many. As a result, the park was being closed until officials found out why, he said. The closing got very little publicity.

A team of biologists and health investigators took specimens and blood samples from the dead creatures and sent them to Texas and elsewhere for examination. Results are pending.

Federico Solorzano, who works with the Fundacion Corcovado, a promotional group, advanced one possible explanation. Costa Rica's May-to-November rainy season has just ended. It was nastier than most because of backlash from the record Atlantic hurricane season. Rains devastated communities throughout the Pacific as far south as the Osa Peninsula on which the park sits. Those rains may have also ruined the development of the fruit that monkeys and birds feast on, Solorzano speculated. The animals may be starving to death.

Mario Gonzalez, a 70 year old farmer on the Osa Peninsula, agreed that starvation may be the case. In his 50 years on the Osa, there had been seasons where a larger quantity of rain had fallen, but never with such force,

he said. In addition, he noted that it seemed as if animals were venturing out of the park more frequently this year, maybe in search of food, he ventured. Carrillo, after visiting the Osa Peninsula, said that although toucans had been dying off the birds have not been dying at such a high rate as that of their tree-swinging counterparts. When pressed, he wouldn't estimate a number or a percentage of dead birds.

Dr Maria del Rocio Saenz Madrigal, the nation's health minister, noted that migratory birds come to the area, including some from Canada. She said there was no increase in illnesses among humans, according to those health workers operating clinics in the area. Many types of illnesses and viral diseases can be spread by mosquitoes and other insects.

The research team is made up of 8 experts from Costa Rica's health and environmental ministries as well as the Universidad de Costa Rica and the Universidad Nacional. Carrillo said they should know soon what is killing all the animals. Though it would seem that the closure of the park would be devastating for tourism, hotel owners weren't reporting many cancellations or early departures. The high tourist season is just beginning in balmy Costa Rica.

The park is a refuge for many kinds of wildlife. Tourists face primitive conditions and frequently camp on the ground. But the peninsula also is a haven for fishermen and surfers, plus dolphin and whale watchers.

Undiagnosed die-off, storks - Spain (Andalusia)

Source: Promed, 19 Jan 2006

Nearly 100 storks have been found dead in Chiclana lagoon (Cadiz), close to the garbage dump of Miramundo. Days ago, several hundreds dead storks were found in a nearby area. According to the local Government in Cadiz, agents of the Nature Protection Service (Seprona) of the police and technicians of the regional Environment Department have collected fecal samples of the dead birds and water from the Jeli lagoon for laboratory tests. Results are pending.

Conjunctivitis, cervids - Colorado

Source: Promed, 26 Jan 2006

An outbreak of conjunctivitis in deer herds in northwest Colorado and around the Paonia area has resulted in nearly 100 deer being killed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

"This time of year, the deer are typically concentrated in remote areas where people can't see them," said Bill deVergie, Meeker area manager for the Division of Wildlife. "We really don't know how widespread it is in those areas we are experiencing it."

Field officers have humanely killed more than 75 conjunctivitis-infected deer through winter 2006, 80 percent of them young bucks, deVergie said. "We are predominantly seeing it in young bucks, although we have had a few does and a calf elk," deVergie said. "By the time we get a report about a deer stumbling around, it's too late to save it."

Approximately 20 deer in the Paonia area have been killed so far this year (2006) because of advanced conjunctivitis, DOW spokesman Joe Lewandowski said. It's unknown how many deer die unreported from the results of conjunctivitis.

"We see cases of conjunctivitis in deer every year," said DOW state veterinarian Mike Miller of Fort Collins. "It's not something we've never seen before. In young males, it usually flares up around breeding season." Young bucks spend a lot of time sparring and butting heads in mock battle, and that contact helps spread the disease, Miller said. He said the exact cause of the outbreak is nearly impossible to determine. "One of the problems we have is by the time the infected animals are seen, they've been infected for quite some time, and it's difficult to pinpoint the cause," he said.

In its advanced stages, conjunctivitis could lead to blindness and possibly rupturing of the cornea, Miller said. Disturbed eyesight would make it easier for a deer to be killed by a predator, hit by a vehicle or unable to feed. The Division of Wildlife is reluctant to feed wildlife in the winter, citing the spread of diseases such as conjunctivitis in closely bunched animals.

The recent outbreak in northwest Colorado is one of the worst deVergie or his field officers could recall, he said. "It's surprising. We've seen it in the past, but, by far, this is the worst we've seen in some years," deVergie said. "We've been told it can be cyclical, but we don't know what kind of cycle it runs. Is it one year, 10 years, 40 years?"

He said the carcasses of infected animals are either burned in the DOW's incinerator in Craig (the same one used to destroy animal heads tested for chronic wasting disease) or buried in a landfill.

Miller said the 2006 outbreak won't have long-lasting effects on the deer populations. "While it may have minor impacts in local areas, I can't imagine it having a big impact overall," he said. "Remember, 75 deer out of the White River herd isn't very many, a drop in the bucket." The White River deer herd is estimated at approximately 140 000 animals.

Wildlife officials expect to see more of the disease in the winter of 2007, as deer start to congregate on winter feeding grounds. "We see it some place every year but not necessarily in the same place or level of intensity," Miller said. "But we won't get too worried about it, unless we see it for several years in the same place."

Associate Veterinary Position

The Zoological Society of San Diego is seeking an Associate Veterinarian who will work in the Veterinary Services Department with four other clinicians and an extensive support staff. Duties will include clinical veterinary care focusing on routine clinical procedures, medical case management, critical care case management, preventive medicine procedures, veterinary support for field projects conducted by the Zoological Society of San Diego, clinical investigation and publication, and teaching/training of a zoological medicine resident and veterinary students at the San Diego Zoo as part of the joint matching program with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, The San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, and SeaWorld of San Diego.

Qualifications: 1) a DVM or equivalent degree from an AVMA accredited institution, 2) completion of a two-year training program in zoo and wildlife medicine or equivalent experience, 3) licensed in the State of California or become licensed within six months from beginning of employment, and 4) accreditation or eligible for accreditation to perform cervid tuberculin testing. Clinical experience with a broad range of captive wildlife species in a large zoological collection is highly desirable. Certification or eligibility for certification in the American College of Zoological Medicine is desirable. Applicants must be able to work any of the seven days of the week and be flexible to work with schedule changes. Selected candidate will work at the San Diego Zoo, the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, and/or travel and work at the field stations and projects on behalf of ZSSD.

Send a cover letter and resume to: San Diego Zoo, Human Resources Department, Attn: #171002 P.O. Box 120551, San Diego, CA 92112 by **April 14, 2006**. www.sandiegozoo.org. EOE/AA.

2006 Summer Course on Marine Mammals

The Duke University Marine Laboratory invites applications to its summer field course on the biology of marine mammals. Topics covered include the ecology, behavior, management and conservation of marine mammals, with emphasis on field study of the local population of bottlenose dolphins.

This is a field and laboratory-intensive course designed to provide first-hand experience with research techniques such as photo-identification and mark-recapture analysis, sampling prey distribution and abundance, behavioral sampling techniques, acoustic recording and analysis, and dissection techniques. The course is taught by a distinguished faculty that includes Andy Read (Duke University) and John Reynolds (Eckerd College and Mote Marine Laboratory).

Summer Term II: 10 July - 11 August 2006

For more information: ml_admissions@nicholas.duke.edu; Tel: 252.504.7502; www.env.duke.edu/marinelab/

Funding for Dolphin Research in Florida

The Protect Wild Dolphin Program at the Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution supports scientific projects that investigate anatomy, behavior, bioacoustics, conservation, ecology, immunology, modeling, physiology, population genetics, psychophysics, statistical analyses, and toxicology of dolphin in Florida waters. The 2006 Request for Proposals (RFP) can be found at <http://www.protectwilddolphins.org/downloads.html>. The award limit per project is \$100,000. Collaborative proposals are encouraged. **The deadline for receipt of proposals will be 15 March 2006.**

Proposals for 1-2 day workshops on topics such as conservation strategies, enabling technologies, health assessments, spatial-temporal modeling, stock management, stranding evaluation, and tagging effects on dolphin in Florida waters will also be considered.

Limited support (up to \$10,000 per institution) is also available for reimbursement of stranding expenses. The deadline for receipt of reimbursement requests is 1 December 2006.

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2. It was suggested that this committee facilitate education opportunities for veterinary students in areas that bridge zoo and wildlife medicine. This idea will be presented to the chairs of the AAZV and ACZM Education Committees. A PowerPoint presentation on educational opportunities for veterinary students interested in wildlife medicine will be developed for distribution to veterinary schools and interested students.
3. There was consensus that this committee should organize joint AAWV and AAZV sessions at forthcoming AAZV and WDA conferences. The AAZV and WDA will be approached regarding appropriate sessions at the 2006 AAZV and WDA/AAWV conferences, including a presentation specifically discussing the mission of AAWV and how wildlife and zoo veterinarians can be brought together. There was also a discussion regarding liaison with The Wildlife Society (TWS) and the Society for

Conservation biology (SCB) suggesting that the Committee on Wildlife Health and Conservation could assist the SCB and TWS with identifying editors and reviewers for wildlife disease related articles that are submitted to their respective journals.

4. It was agreed that the AAZV and WDA webmasters will be contacted regarding the addition of prominent links between the two organizations' websites.
5. It was agreed that this committee should be active in monitoring and responding to mutual disease threats to both captive and free-living wildlife. It was decided that the AAWV representative on the AAZV Infectious Diseases Committee should keep this committee informed regarding infectious disease issues such as avian influenza.

2006 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Mar 19-24** The International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases and the 2006 International Symposium on Emerging Zoonoses, Marriot Marquis, Atlanta Georgia. For more information go to www.iceid.org
- Mar 22-25** 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Hyatt Regency Columbus, Ohio. For more information contact Mike Goldstein at migoldstein@yahoo.com
- May 6-10** Annual Meeting of the International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Nassau, Bahamas. For more information see www.wyndhamnassauresort.com
- Jun 24-29** 20th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology. San Jose, California, USA. For more information see <http://conbio.net/SCB/Activities/Meetings>
- Jul 15-19** 143rd AVMA Annual Convention. Honolulu, Hawaii. For more information go to www.avmaconvention.org
- Aug 6-11** Annual Meeting of the Wildlife Disease Association. University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT. For more information go to www.wildlifedisease.org/meetings.htm
- Sep 20-24** Annual meeting of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. Tampa, Florida. For more information see www.aazv.org/meetings.htm
- Sep 23-27** 13th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society, Anchorage, Alaska. For more information see www.wildlife.org/conference/index.cfm?tname=2006cfp

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**AMERICAN
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