



# AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

WINTER 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan Sleeman

There is no doubt that there has been a paradigm shift in the public's perception of wildlife diseases. Many wildlife diseases can no longer be considered natural regulators of wildlife populations and researchers who work on such diseases can longer be considered on the "fringes." As you are all aware, in recent history there have been an unprecedented number of new infectious diseases that have been identified (for example, Ebola virus and severe acute respiratory syndrome-SARS), and many of the emerging diseases that are threats to human, animal and ecosystem health are of wildlife origin. Furthermore, there is an increasing body of evidence that globalization and its associated human activities create a worldwide environmental situation that favors disease emergence. Examples of these human activities or "drivers" of emerging infectious diseases include ecological alterations (climate change, loss of habitat and biodiversity as well as invasive species); human demographic and behavior changes; international travel and trade; microbial adaptation and change; lack of resources to prevent and control these diseases; and breakdown of public health measures due to war and natural disasters. It is my opinion that these issues are going to continue to increase in importance and that we, as wildlife veterinarians and wildlife health researchers, are on the front lines and have a critical role to play.

There are many challenges to realizing our role, not least of which is the lack of resources and lack of capacity to effectively address wildlife health issues. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies ([www.fishwildlife.org](http://www.fishwildlife.org)) has developed (and the AAWV supports) the National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative for the United States with the goals of developing and enhancing federal, state and territorial fish and wildlife management agency capacity to effectively address health issues, and develop and implement a national strategy to address health issues involving free-ranging fish and wildlife through management, surveillance and research.

But there is more we as an organization need to do; in particular, there is an urgent need to develop and nurture a cadre of trained wildlife health professionals who can meet the increasing need to protect human, animal and ecosystem health. So where is the next generation of wildlife veterinarians, and what can AAWV do? It is vital that we attract the best and the bright-

*Continued pg. 2*

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE TOM THORNE — BETH WILLIAMS AWARD DEADLINE MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>

The AAWV and WDA are seeking nominations for the Tom Thorne and Beth Williams Memorial Award. The award is given 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. Nominations are open to all professionals and students in the field of wildlife health, regardless of membership in the AAWV or WDA.

Submitted nominations should consist of a letter stating the nominee's name, affiliations, brief biographical history and a description of the contribution or achievements for which the person is nominated.

For more information or to submit a nomination, contact William Lance at [wlance@wildpharm.com](mailto:wlance@wildpharm.com). Submissions are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered for the 2008 award.

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Student Chapter Guidelines
- 3 Two New Working Groups Created
- 4 Foot-Hold Trap Position Statement
- 5 Abstracts of Interest
- 6 Wildlife Disease News
- 7 Employment & Education Opportunities

## 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.

### **PRESIDENT**

Jonathan Sleeman  
jonathan.sleeman@dgif.virginia.gov

### **VICE-PRESIDENT**

Mark Cunningham  
mark.cunningham@fwc.state.fl.us

### **SECRETARY**

Colin Gillin  
colin.m.gillin@state.or.us

### **TREASURER**

Mark Drew  
mdrew@agri.idaho.gov

### **EDITOR**

Jordan Mencher  
jmencher@myuw.net

### **LAYOUT & DESIGN**

Nancy Ottum  
nographicdesign@mac.com

*Continued from page 1, President's Message*

est veterinarians to careers in wildlife medicine; otherwise we will find our role in wildlife disease management and research diminished. It is stated in our Five-Year Strategic Plan that we will "...promote student membership in the AAWV, including support for the formation and recognition of student chapters of the AAWV." Pursuant to that goal, we have an exciting initiative to announce. It has been decided by the Board of Governors that all the proceeds from the Conference auction this year will be used for student activities. (Consequently we have revised the Guidelines for Student Chapters, which can be found below; thanks to Kirsten Gilardi for working on this document.) Because of this source of money, student chapters will now be eligible to apply for funding to help support student-organized wildlife disease-focused symposia, stage wet labs, or bring relevant speakers to their veterinary schools. If this initiative is successful, we may consider dedicating all future auction proceeds to student activities.

In addition, the AAWV will also assist student chapters in identifying appropriate AAWV-affiliated mentors, and this is how you can help. Please consider volunteering to mentor student chapters or even individual students from your home region. If you are interested please contact Dr. Sonia Hernandez-Divers (shernz@aol.com), the AAWV Advisory Council student liaison. Was there somebody during your career who inspired, encouraged or motivated you? It was important for all of us at some point in our career to meet, listen to, and talk with the people in the field, and you can be that inspiration for the next generation of wildlife veterinarians. Nothing less than the future of wildlife veterinary medicine and the integrity of the biosphere are at risk!

## GUIDELINES FOR AAWV STUDENT CHAPTERS DEFINED

According to Article VII of the AAWV constitution, a student organization in a college or school of veterinary medicine may be granted affiliation with this association by the Board of Governors. The name of such affiliated organization shall be the "(name of college or school) Student Chapter of the AAWV."

### *Procedure for establishing an AAWV Student Chapter*

1. The student designated as the AAWV Student Chapter president writes a letter to the AAWV President requesting recognition as a student chapter on a calendar-year (not academic year) basis. The letter should include the names of all members, all of whom are current members of the AAWV (the letter may include applications from said students). Chapters are encouraged to identify a faculty sponsor who is an AAWV member, but this not required; the AAWV can assist each chapter in identifying a faculty sponsor if needed. The Chapter itself does not pay membership dues.
2. The President forwards a copy of the letter to the AAWV Board of Governors for approval. The AAWV Secretary then enters the Student Chapter into the membership data-

base (status designated as "SC", versus "AC" for active member, "ST" for student member, "SU" for subscribing member, etc). In this manner, the AAWV records the chapter's existence and its current standing.

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

### *Benefits of AAWV Student Chapter Status*

Chapters and faculty sponsors will receive quarterly newsletters. Chapters will be able to contribute reports on club activities to the quarterly newsletter, and will be recognized as an AAWV student chapter in the newsletter once annually.

Chapters will be eligible to apply for funds to support student chapter activities, including symposia, wet labs, special speakers, etc. Funds will be awarded based on merit of the request and availability of funds.

Chapters will be assigned a local AAWV member liaison to help guide the chapter and mentor members.

## TWO NEW AAWV WORKING GROUPS SEEKING MEMBERS' INVOLVEMENT

*Jonathan Sleeman, AAWV President*

Now that the Five-Year Strategic Plan has been approved by YOU, the hard work of implementing the plan begins. To kick start this, the Board of Governors has formed Policy and Communications Working Groups. These groups will consist of officers, Advisory Council members, and especially general members. Consequently, we are looking for volunteers to join these working groups. This will be a great opportunity to work with your colleagues, become involved, and make a significant contribution to YOUR organization.

Charges for these working groups have been developed and are printed below. We are especially looking for folks who have skills in policy, database design and management, and other associated fields, so if you have a particular interest or skill please let us know. However, the most important qualification will be energy and enthusiasm. Please do not hesitate to contact me (jonathan.sleeman@dgif.virginia.gov) if you have any questions.

### *Charges for the AAWV Policy Working Group 2007-2009*

The Policy Working Group will review all past AAWV resolutions and position statements and provide recommendations to the Board of Governors for amending, rescinding or retiring these documents by the AAWV annual business meeting in 2008.

During the course of 2007-2009 the Policy Working Group will monitor the Federal Register, AFWA committee minutes

and other relevant information for wildlife health issues that may be of interest to the AAWV, and provide recommendations for the development of resolutions and position statements on these issues.

The Policy Working Group will assist the Board of Governors and the Advisory Council in revising past resolutions and position statements as well as developing future ones.

### *Charges for the AAWV Communications Working Group 2007-2009*

By the AAWV annual business meeting in 2008, the Communications Working Group will have designed a Web-based AAWV members database for use by AAWV members only. This database will be presented to the membership at the 2008 business meeting, and will go live shortly thereafter.

The Communications Working Group will develop a plan for the timely renewal of membership every year that will include, but not be limited to, developing monthly reminder letters and notices for members behind on membership renewal as well as a mechanism for reaching out to members who have not renewed for two consecutive years or more.

The Communications Working Group will review the available services of various online association management companies, assess the cost-benefit of using these services, and provide a recommendation for presentation at the AAWV annual business meeting in 2008.

The Communications Working Group will develop a plan to produce and distribute AAWV logo-branded merchandise. The plan will be produced for presentation at the 2008 AAWV business meeting.

The Communications Working Group will assist the Board of Governors and Advisory Council in recruiting student chapters, student members, and AAWV members who can act as mentors or liaisons for the student chapters.

The Communications Working Group will assist the Board of Governors and Advisory Council in distributing AAWV promotional material, including, but not limited to, a new brochure.

The Communications Working Group will work with the AAWV Web master to keep the Web site current as well as reflective of these new activities.

*"We are especially looking for folks who have skills in policy, database design and management, and other associated fields"*

### **Ideas Concerning AAWV Student Activities?**

**We are always interested in receiving any ideas you may have that could enhance our capacity to involve veterinary students in the organization.**

**Please feel free to share your ideas with Dr. Sonia Hernandez-Divers (shernz@aol.com), the Advisory Council's student liaison.**

## The AAWV Develops a Position Statement on the Use of Foothold Traps

*David Miller, AAWV Representative to the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee*

The wildlife community has long recognized the increasing tension between those who support recreational wildlife activities such as hunting and fishing and those who don't. Trapping and the use of fur has been a particularly contentious topic. As a result the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) developed and approved a position statement on trapping that labeled the use of leghold traps (also known as foothold traps, a more correct term based on where the animal is captured) as inhumane. This statement is problematic for wildlife veterinarians on several counts: negative labeling of trapping ignores the legitimate need for their use in wildlife conservation, damage mitigation, disease control, and other scientific efforts; fails to recognize the development of Best Management Practices for trap design and use to minimize trauma and capture of non-target animals; is based on inaccurate perceptions of trapping activities and accepted standards, including perceptions associated with trap designs that are outdated; fails to recognize that foothold traps may be the most humane option for capture of some species under some circumstances; fails to recognize the absence of reasonable alternatives for some wildlife management needs; and although it has yet to happen, there is concern that wildlife veterinarians who are associated with trapping activities could be subject to license revocation or other disciplinary action.

While the philosophical disagreement between those who are pro- or anti-trapping will not be bridged for some segments of society, those who are undecided on the subject will find mostly negative appraisals of trapping on the World Wide Web and elsewhere. In recognition of these circumstances, the AAWV has developed and adopted a position statement on trapping. This statement has been submitted to the AVMA Animal Welfare Committee to communicate to the AVMA a need to revise its existing policy statement on trapping.

Balancing and communicating the complex interplay of varied social values, wildlife management (including disease control) challenges, animal welfare concerns, and pragmatic concerns associated with trapping poses a significant challenge for the wildlife community in general. Addressing these complexities in the context of foothold trap use may also set the stage for future debates on hunting, fishing, and similar wildlife activities. In this instance, the AAWV chose to be proactive and strove to produce a balanced scientifically-based position statement on this issue. Please consider the AAWV position statement on trapping as an invitation to provide your expertise on future position statements that affect the health and welfare of wildlife.

To view the AVMA statement in its entirety: [www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal\\_welfare/trapping.asp](http://www.avma.org/issues/policy/animal_welfare/trapping.asp)

### Position Statement Regarding the Use of Foot-Hold Traps for Wildlife

[December 2007] The capture and handling of wildlife is necessary for wildlife conservation, research, disease surveillance, and management, as well as to protect property and human and domestic animal health. Foot-hold traps (also known as leg-hold traps) are important tools for achieving these objectives and, when used properly, are humane, safe and practical. Nevertheless, significant opposition to the use of foot-hold traps exists due to both real and perceived risks. Research into methods designed to reduce injury and otherwise improve trapping methods, and public education and outreach, are necessary to resolve this conflict. The following statements present the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians position on the use of foot-hold traps for wildlife.

#### *The AAWV supports the use of foot-hold traps to:*

- Conduct research necessary for identifying the conservation needs of, and threats to, wildlife populations.
- Conduct disease surveillance necessary to identify the spread or introduction of infectious agents and to identify disease threats to wildlife, domestic animals, and humans.
- To conduct disease control, eradication and prevention as well as monitor and evaluate such programs.
- Implement wildlife management actions to prevent overpopulation of some species and subsequent environmental degradation or damage to property; prevent interspecific competition; and translocate, restore, or reintroduce species.
- Commercially and recreationally collect game by licensed trappers under the strict regulation of state fish and wildlife agencies that establish rules, zones, and quotas to manage local populations of game animals.

#### *The AAWV supports understanding of the animal welfare issues involved in the use of foot-hold traps; specifically, to:*

- Recognize that free-ranging wildlife is valued for its contribution to functional ecosystems, for its commercial and recreational value, and for its intrinsic value.
- Recognize that the welfare interests of wildlife, the environment, domestic animals, and humans may conflict under some circumstances.
- Recognize that opposition to the use of foot-hold traps exists and that a solution to this issue requires well-designed and sensitive research, public education, and outreach programs.
- Recognize that animals can be injured by some traps and trapping systems and that animal welfare is enhanced by using traps that kill quickly and humanely, or capture animals in systems that reduce or eliminate injuries.
- Support the use of foot-hold traps and techniques that are selective and humane, reduce injury and stress, and are safe for use.

*Continued pg. 5*

## ABSTRACTS OF INTEREST

### Behaviour of Australian rainforest stream frogs may affect the transmission of chytridiomycosis.

Rowley JJ, Alford RA.

*Dis Aquat Organ.* 2007. 77:1, pp 1-9.

The amphibian disease chytridiomycosis, caused by the pathogen *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis*, has been implicated in mass mortalities, population declines and extinctions of amphibians around the world. In almost all cases, amphibian species that have disappeared or declined due to chytridiomycosis coexist with non-declining species. One reason why some species decline from chytridiomycosis and others do not may be interspecific differences in behaviour. Host behaviour could either facilitate or hinder pathogen transmission, and transmission rates in the field are likely to vary among species according to the frequency of factors such as physical contact between frogs, contact with infected water and contact with environmental substrates containing *B. dendrobatidis*. We tracked 117 frogs (28 *Litoria nannotis*, 27 *L. genimaculata* and 62 *L. lesueuri*) at 5 sites where *B. dendrobatidis* is endemic in the rainforest of tropical northern Queensland and recorded the frequency of frog-to-frog contact and the frequency of contact with stream water and environmental substrates. Frequency of contact with other frogs and with water were highest in *L. nannotis*, intermediate in *L. genimaculata* and lowest in *L. lesueuri*. Environmental substrate use also differed among species. These species-specific opportunities for disease transmission were correlated with conservation status: *L. nannotis* is the species most susceptible to chytridiomycosis-related declines and *L. lesueuri* is the least susceptible. Interspecific variation in transmission probability may, therefore, play a large role in determining why chytridiomycosis drives some populations to extinction and not others.

### Development of methodology to prioritise wildlife pathogens for surveillance.

McKenzie J, Simpson H, Langstaff I.

*Prev Vet Med.* 2007. 81:1-3, pp 194-210

We developed and evaluated a methodology to prioritise pathogens for a wildlife disease surveillance strategy in New Zealand. The methodology, termed 'rapid risk analysis' was based on the import risk analysis framework recommended by the Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE), and involved: hazard identification, risk estimation, and ranking of 48 exotic and 34 endemic wildlife pathogens. The risk assessment was more rapid than a full quantitative assessment through the use of a semi-quantitative approach to score pathogens for probability of entry to NZ (release assessment), likelihood of spread (exposure assessment) and consequences in free-living wildlife, captive wildlife, humans, livestock and companion animals. Risk was estimated by multiplying the scores for the probability of entry to New Zealand by the likelihood of spread by the consequences for free-living wildlife, humans and livestock. The rapid risk analysis methodology produced scores that were sufficiently differentiated between pathogens to be useful for ranking them on the basis of risk. Ranking pathogens on the basis of the risk estimate for each population sector provided an opportunity to identify the priorities within each sector alone thus avoiding value-laden comparisons between sectors. Ranking pathogens across all three population sectors by summing the risk estimate for each sector provided a comparison of total risk which may be useful for resource allocation decisions at national level. Ranking pathogens within each wildlife taxonomic group using the total risk estimate was most useful for developing specific surveillance strategies for each group.

Continued from page 4, **Position Statement**

*The AAWV supports the improvement of trap safety for wildlife, recognizing that:*

- Regulatory and educational programs are necessary for the controlled and proper use of foot-hold traps.
- The maintenance and continued development of Best Management Practices (under the auspices of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) for use of foot-hold traps should be supported.
- Research identifying or improving trapping methods that reduce animal injury, minimize non-target capture, and maintain user safety should be implemented.

These statements of our position replace any previous statements or letters on this subject, and remain in effect until otherwise amended, rescinded or retired.

### Zoo Animal and Wildlife Immobilization and Anesthesia: A New Reference Text

A comprehensive reference for zoo, wildlife, and exotic animal veterinarians, *Zoo Animal and Wildlife Immobilization and Anesthesia* covers key aspects of immobilization and anesthesia in veterinary species. Alongside general chapters covering pharmacology, restraint and supportive care, editors Gary West, Darryl Heard and Nigel Caulkett have brought together over 40 phylogenetic-specific chapters written by leading veterinarians in zoological and wildlife medicine, covering invertebrate, fish, amphibian reptile, bird and mammal species. Published by Wiley-Blackwell ([www.blackwellpublishing.com](http://www.blackwellpublishing.com)), US\$149.99.



### Thousands of Bats Dying in the Northeast US

*From ProMed (edited)*

Thousands of hibernating bats are dying in caves in New York and Vermont from an unknown cause or causes, prompting an investigation by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and wildlife agencies and researchers around the nation. The most obvious sign involved in the die-off is a white fungal growth encircling the noses of some, but not all, of the bats. Called “white nose syndrome”, the as yet unidentified fungus is believed to be associated with mortality but may not be the sole or primary cause of death. In fact, it appears that the impacted bats die as a result of depletion of fat reserves months before they would normally emerge from hibernation.

Bat biologists across the country are evaluating strategies to monitor the presence of the disease and collect specimens for laboratory analysis. Biologists are taking precautions - using sanitary clothing and respirators when entering caves - to avoid spreading the disease in the process. Until researchers understand the cause and epizootiology of the die-off, state environmental officials and caving organizations are asking people not to enter caves or mines with bats until further notice to avoid the possible transfer of the disease from cave to cave. “What we’ve seen so far is unprecedented,” said Alan Hicks, DEC’s bat specialist. “Most bat researchers would agree that this is the gravest threat to bats they have ever seen. We have bat researchers, laboratories, and caving groups across the country working to understand the cause of the problem and ways to contain it. Until we know more, we are asking people to stay away from known bat caves.”

Bat populations are particularly vulnerable during hibernation when they congregate in large numbers in caves (in clusters of 300 per square foot in some locations), making them susceptible to disturbance or disease. The vast majority of the hundreds of thousands of bats known to hibernate in New York do so in just five caves and mines. Because bats will migrate hundreds of miles to their summer range, impacts to hibernating bats can have significant implications for bats throughout the north east. The Indiana bat, a state and federally endangered species, is perhaps the most vulnerable. Half the estimated 52,000 Indiana bats that hibernate in New York are located in just one former mine - a mine that is now infected with white nose syndrome. Eastern pipistrelle, northern long-eared, and little brown bats are also dying. Little brown bats, the most common hibernating species in the state, have sustained the largest number of deaths.

The DEC has been working closely with the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Northeast Cave Conservancy, and the National Speleological Society, along with other researchers from universities and other government agencies, and will provide updates as they become available.

### New Insights Into Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumor Disease

*From ProMed (edited)*

Researchers have made a breakthrough in understanding facial tumor disease, a transmissible cancer that has wiped out more than half the Tasmanian devil population: it is suspected that a lack of genetic diversity in the population does not allow affected animals to mount an immune response to the disease.

Facial tumor cells in all infected devils are genetically identical, indicating the disease originated from a single animal. Researchers hypothesize that the immune system of the original animal did not recognize the tumors as foreign and therefore did not mount an immune response. Because Tasmanian devils are all genetically similar, newly infected devils similarly do not recognize the tumor cells as foreign. According to Dr. Katherine Belov from Sydney University’s School of Veterinary Science, affected Tasmanian devils had lost genetic diversity in the most important gene region for the immune system, the Major Histocompatibility Complex (MHC). Furthermore, the devils all had a similar MHC type to the tumor. “This information provides a deeper understanding of the nature of the disease and will aid in developing effective disease control strategies,” Dr. Belov said. “Essentially, there are no natural barriers to the spread of the disease, so affected individuals must be removed from populations to stop disease transmission.” However, the effectiveness and practicality of this approach is still unclear. Rodrigo Hamede, a specialist on facial tumor disease who traps and monitors Tasmanian devils, says “If the devils are ever going to develop immunity - and to my mind that is the best bet [for disease control] - by removing creatures you are making it less likely.” A pilot program is underway on an isolated peninsula where all the diseased devils they trap are killed. There is some evidence that this approach is working to protect the overall population because over time the average age of trapped animals has increased, suggesting that more animals are avoiding the cancer and surviving longer. But the program is expensive, and Hamish McCallum, chief scientist of the Devil Facial Tumor Program, said his team was not yet sure about its effectiveness in stopping the disease. As yet there is no test to detect the disease in pre-tumorous animals.

According to Dr. Belov, this genetic influence on disease ecology may not be restricted to devil facial tumor disease. “What also worries me is that many other wildlife populations are going through similar bottlenecks: koalas on Kangaroo Island; platypuses on King Island,” she said. “Loss of genetic diversity in these genes just opens the door for emergency and rapid spread of new and old disease.”

### MARVET Workshops in Marine Veterinary Medicine

MARVET ([www.marvet.org](http://www.marvet.org)) is taking applications from graduate veterinarians for a marine medicine workshop to be conducted at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito CA, July 7-10 2008. Specific topics will include taxonomy, ecology, anatomy, physiology, pathology and clinical medicine in marine species, with an emphasis on marine mammals, sea turtles and marine birds and some attention to sharks and other fish species. Diagnostic methods (hematology, radiology, ultrasonography, endoscopy, urinalysis, cytology, histopathology, necropsy) and therapeutic applications are presented. Students will have the opportunity to perform diagnostic workups and develop therapies for real world cases at the Center (primarily California sea lions, harbor seals and elephant seals), and perform necropsies with a Board-Certified pathologist. The contributions that rehabilitation facilities make to species conservation and ecosystem health and the role of veterinarians in the development of effective marine animal conservation policy at national and international levels will also be examined. Instructors include experts in marine animal health, welfare and conservation in a global context; they represent a diverse range of facilities and organizations, including oceanaria, aquaria, zoological parks, rehabilitation units, wildlife organizations, academia, and federal and state governmental organizations.

MARVET also offers veterinary students an introductory lecture and hands-on workshop in the field of Tropical Conservation Medicine, in Grand Cayman, British West Indies, July 21 - August 2 2008. This workshop focusses on veterinary care and rehabilitation of sea turtles and the use of selected species of fish in ecosystem health assessments. Lectures will address concepts in conservation medicine, anatomy and physiology of marine species (mammals, reptiles, fish), emerging diseases in marine mammals, reptiles and amphibians, sea turtle medicine, fish medicine, wildlife ecotoxicology, diagnostic surveillance of wildlife morbidity and mortality, coral reef biology and restoration, mangrove ecosystem biology, wildlife law and marine wildlife medicine career opportunities for veterinarians. Students will participate in diagnostic wetlabs at the marine facility and field activities orienting students toward key ecologic components of marine ecosystem health. A site visit will also be made to the Blue Iguana Habitat to investigate this rare species and the conservation strategies being employed to preserve it.

For further information on either of these programs, go to [www.marvet.org](http://www.marvet.org) or email Raymond Tarpley at [info@marvet.org](mailto:info@marvet.org).

### Ph.D. Opportunity: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Health Management

A Ph.D. research assistantship concerning integration of biological and human dimensions of wildlife management is available in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University. Interest or experience in wildlife health management and the application of social science research to conservation, and agency or post-graduate experience, are desirable. The student will be part of a multi-disciplinary team supported by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to improve capacity of state resource agencies in implementation of a National Fish and Wildlife Health Initiative. Send letter of interest and purpose, CV, transcripts (unofficial acceptable), and GRE scores to Dr. Shawn J. Riley, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, 13 Natural Resources Building, MSU, East Lansing, MI 48824, e-mail: [rileysh2@msu.edu](mailto:rileysh2@msu.edu)

### AAWV Annual Conference To Be Held Jointly With WDA and CAZVW August 3-8

The 2008 AAWV Conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conferences of the Wildlife Disease Association and the Canadian Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, August 3-8, 2008 in Alberta, Canada. The AAWV will be inviting a Cutting Edge Speaker, co-chairing a portion of the scientific sessions, assisting with a chemical immobilization workshop, and holding a business meeting. Presentations and/or posters can be on any wildlife health-related topic, but papers relating to wildlife disease ecology, disease control and mitigation, adaptive resource management, new tools and technology with applications for wildlife health management, and social/political challenges in wildlife health are encouraged. **The deadline for submission of abstracts is May 1st, 2008.**

In addition, for the first time the AAWV and the WDA will hold a joint auction. As there are now two organizations vying for the spare money in your wallet, we ask that you make an extra effort to contribute items for both the AAWV and the WDA. Proceeds for the AAWV will be put into a new Student Fund and used to fund activities such as supporting student wildlife clubs and sponsoring wildlife symposia at veterinary schools. So start thinking about items you can contribute to the auction, and save the date to join your friends and colleagues at the premier professional event of the year. For more information, please go to [www.biology.ualberta.ca/parasites/WDA08/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/parasites/WDA08/).

## 2008 UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Mar 16-19** 2008 International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases. Hyatt Regency, Atlanta, GA. For more information visit [www.iceid.org](http://www.iceid.org).
- Mar 28-30** 16th Annual Southeast and Mid-Atlantic Marine Mammal Symposium. Charleston, South Carolina. Highlighted this year will be conservation medicine and its applications to marine mammal research and management. For more info go to [www.musc.edu/mbes/seamamms/](http://www.musc.edu/mbes/seamamms/).
- Apr 22 - 25** Florida Marine Mammal Health Conference III. The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, Marineland, Florida. For more information go to [www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/marinemammal](http://www.conference.ifas.ufl.edu/marinemammal).
- May 12-15** Peregrine Fund Conference on Ingestion of Spent Lead Ammunition. Boise State University, Boise, Idaho. Deadline for abstracts and early registration March 1. More info: [www.peregrinefund.org/Lead\\_conference/default.htm](http://www.peregrinefund.org/Lead_conference/default.htm).
- Jul 27-31** 29th World Veterinary Congress. Vancouver, British Columbia. For more info see [www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com](http://www.worldveterinarycongress2008.com).
- Aug 3-8** Joint Conference of the AAWV, WDA and the Canadian Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians. University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. For more info go to [www.biology.ualberta.ca/parasites/WDA08/](http://www.biology.ualberta.ca/parasites/WDA08/).
- Sep 6-9** Fish Diseases and Immunology Conference. Radisson SAS Hotel Saga, Reykjavik, Iceland. More info go to [www.yourhost.is/content/view/210/140/](http://www.yourhost.is/content/view/210/140/)
- Oct 11-17** The Annual Conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians/ Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians. Los Angeles, California. For more info see <http://www.aazv.org/displayconvention.cfm?conventionnr=4584>.
- Oct 21-28** US Animal Health Association Annual Meeting. The Sheraton Greensboro Hotel, Greensboro, North Carolina. For more info go to <http://www.usaha.org/meetings/>.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter 2008

University of California  
Davis, CA 95616 USA  
One Shields Ave.

c/o Wildlife Health Center (ID #020C)

**AMERICAN  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WILDLIFE  
VETERINARIANS**

