

WCVM Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association
Progress Report, April 2007

Chapter: Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan
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A student chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association was established during the 2006-2007 school year at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine and in association with the WCVM's active Pathology Club. Some events that the organization has sponsored this year with the goal of increasing exposure of wildlife disease issues to veterinary students at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine include:

- Sponsoring a talk in April of 2006 with Dr. Todd Shury, Wildlife Disease Specialist for Parks Canada "The Good, the Bad and the Putrid- Adventures of a Wildlife Vet" where students learned about the role of a veterinarian within the Parks Canada Agency.
- Sponsoring a talk in October of 2006 with Dr. Todd Shury in conjunction with the WCVM Animal Welfare Club- "Humane Trapping in Canada" where students had an opportunity to learn about current research in the area of humane trapping and the importance of the industry to certain communities in Canada.
- Sponsoring a talk in November of 2006 by Dr. Brett Elkin "Wildlife Disease issues in the Northwest Territories and how to deal with them". Students were given an opportunity to meet Dr. Elkin as well as establish an understanding of current wildlife disease issues facing the Northwest Territories. Dr. Elkin also encouraged student involvement within organizations such as the WDA and looking into wildlife disease related externships in Northern Canada.
- Sponsoring a noon hour seminar in March of 2007, with Dr. David Janz "Aquatic ecotoxicology of Uranium Mining in Northern Saskatchewan." Students were exposed to ongoing research at the University of Saskatchewan that is looking at potential impacts of Uranium mining on aquatic ecosystems.
- Sponsoring a noon hour seminar in March of 2007 with Dr. Cheryl Sangster "Wet and wild, a short introduction to fish diseases" where Dr. Sangster went over basic husbandry and diseases of aquarium fish.
- Sponsoring a noon hour seminar in March of 2007 with Dr. Johan Lindso "South Asian vulture populations- victims of domestic animal health care". Dr. Lindso went over his involvement in a project describing this devastating disease in Gyr vultures in India.

- The Student Chapter of the WDA sponsored a reception with Dr. Leslie Dierauf, a marine mammal expert, where interested students would have an opportunity to interact with her one on one.
- Promotion of the WDA meeting in Colorado in August of 2007

We hoped by organizing seminars on wildlife disease issues, that students would become more aware of important issues (e.g. designing humane trapping protocols, Brucellosis in caribou populations in Northern Canada, potential effects of Uranium mining on riparian ecosystems, and Diclofenac poisoning in Gyr vultures). Students were also given opportunities to see that there are in fact employment opportunities in wildlife disease and are able to discuss their interests and goals with professors, graduate students and government veterinarians who are working in the field. We hope to include more practical wet labs for the club next year, including a CWD testing demonstration lab and wildlife histology rounds.