

Wildlife Veterinary Section
Notes from the Chair
4 October 2016

The Wildlife Disease Association Annual meeting was a little more than a month ago. Several section members met one morning to brainstorm goals and strategies for the Wildlife Veterinary Section. One concern expressed was with all the options for membership and professional networking, how do we as an organization distinguish ourselves and what benefits can we provide for our members. First and foremost, I think we need to emphasize the breadth and scope of the professional connections between our members, globally, academically, and occupationally. Here is a summary of the topics discussed at that meeting along with some ideas sent to me by members and colleagues:

1. Mentoring students
 - a. Encourage students to attend conferences, join committees, and be active in professional organizations.
 - b. Offer to assist students with research study plans, and scientific writing.
 - c. News briefs and announcements to veterinary schools for their student newsletters.
 - d. Post volunteer and professional development opportunities to website and to gmail listserv
2. Partnering with other organizations
 - a. Advertising the section at the annual meetings of organizations with intersecting interests such as The Wildlife Society, International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine, American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, European Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians, etc.
 - b. Co-sponsoring scientific sessions at meetings of the same organizations.
 - c. Offering to organize workshops at meetings of the same organizations.
 - d. Author factsheets and information briefs relative to veterinary medicine, disease and wildlife and make them available on our webpage. Note: these cannot be political opinion pieces because of the restrictions placed on 501C3 organizations.
3. Value added membership
 - a. Discounts on books with publishers.
 - b. Gmail listserv for newsletters and discussion.
 - c. Update section website with new officers, bylaws, mission statement, logo, newsletter info, upcoming events. Encourage donations to support grant and travel award.
4. Promote professional development and research in economically challenged regions
 - a. Travel award to the annual meeting for an individual with an accepted veterinary topic abstract who is not from the hosting country with individuals from countries in the lower 1/3 of economic standing given priority.

- b. Support research in economically disadvantaged areas through a small grant process.
- c. Provide assistance in grant writing for researchers.
- d. Provide assistance in scientific writing for non-English speakers (and others?).

If you have additional ideas, would like to help by mentoring students and young professionals, can assist with peer-to-peer professional development or if you have a volunteer opportunity that you would like to post, please contact the officers:

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