



## **Student Chapter Progress Report**

### **Chapter Name:**

University of Guelph Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter

### **Established in (if known): 2017**

**Mission:** Our mission is to catalyze interactions between veterinary, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as staff and faculty from across the University of Guelph with an interest in wildlife disease by providing a forum for inter-disciplinary discussion of contemporary challenges facing wildlife disease research, management and public engagement, while simultaneously providing career building and educational opportunities as diverse as the foci of the chapters' membership-base. In placing a strong emphasis on discipline diversity, and by launching the University of Guelph Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association as an inter- departmental collaboration, we hope to 1) broaden the education of members through exposure to concepts outside their area of specialization, 2) provide members with opportunities/collaborations outside of their field of study, and 3) create a network of specialists amongst the future generation of wildlife disease professionals.

**Number of chapter members: 6**

**Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 5**

### **Faculty Advisor**

Name: Dr. Claire Jardine

Position: Associate Professor, Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Manager Ontario|Nunavut

Email: [cjardi01@uoguelph.ca](mailto:cjardi01@uoguelph.ca)

### **Current board members**

#### **President:**

Name: Dr. Shannon French

Email: [frenchs@uoguelph.ca](mailto:frenchs@uoguelph.ca)

#### **Committee Member:**

Name: Jolene Giacinti

Email address: [jgiacint@uoguelph.ca](mailto:jgiacint@uoguelph.ca)

#### **Committee Member:**

Name: Sarah Robinson

Email address: [srobin18@uoguelph.ca](mailto:srobin18@uoguelph.ca)

#### **Committee Member:**

Name: Samantha Allen

Email address: [sallen02@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sallen02@uoguelph.ca)

### **Board members 2019-2020**

Elections are held on an annual basis during the second week of the Fall semester.

### **Description of Chapter Activities PR & Fundraising:**

Online presence:

- - Chapter website (if applicable): NA
- - Chapter facebook page (if applicable): NA
- - Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter): NA
- - Does your chapter have a newsletter?: NA

Member recruitment & Club outreach

- - Word of mouth
- - Departmental Emails
- - Advertised talks
- - University "Clubs Days" Collaboration:
  - NA WDA-representation:

- Announce at chapter hosted seminars what the WDA mission is and how to become a member. Fundraising:

- - Membership fees: \$0
- - Hosted fundraising: None
- - Grants applied for: None

### **EVENTS**

**Seminar: Ways to incorporate wildlife health into your career path**

Speaker: Dr. Alex Reid

**Seminar: Citizen scientists for wildlife health – a fabulous but limited resource.**

Speaker: Dr. Ted Leighton

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The Guelph Student Chapter was able to put on two excellent seminars this year with attendance of graduate students, residents, veterinary students, and undergraduate students. We were able to connect with the Zoo, Exotic and Wildlife club at the veterinary college and the Future Vets Club at the undergraduate level to share our events. In the upcoming year, we aim to connect with the undergraduate Wildlife Club and the graduate One Health Student Committee to further diversify our network of students and speakers. We also plan to develop a list serve that will allow us to circulate interesting and relevant information and opportunities to interested students.

### **Regarding the conference in Wisconsin:**

We think a workshop focused on the influences of climate change on wildlife health would be interesting and timely. We think that lectures and case studies would lend themselves well to this topic. Setting up workshops can be challenging, but maybe a session on how to include climate data in other types of analyses or ways to approach collecting and incorporating weather and climate data could be fun.