



## **Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines**

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Marianthi Ioannidis (ioannidis.marianthi@gmail.com), before May 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter's business card.

- 1) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
- 2) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
- 3) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2020 to be added to the website.
- 4) Chapter that are not sending back a progress report will not be considered active anymore.



## **Student Chapter Progress Report**

**Chapter Name: Midwestern University Wildlife Exotic Zoo Avian and Aquatic Medicine (WEZAAM) and Wildlife Disease Association (WDA) Student Chapters**

**Established in (if known): 2018**

**Mission:** The Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter aims to connect veterinary students with hands on learning experiences, educational opportunities, and connections with professionals in the field of wildlife health to foster interests and build foundations for new veterinarians ready to meet the challenges of working with wildlife and conservation medicine.

**Number of chapter members: 50**

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

### **Faculty Advisor**

Name: Alexandra Gow

Position: DVM, DACZAM

Email: agoe@midwestern.edu

### **Current board members**

Please include country of the officers when your chapter represents multiple countries. Also, please include country representatives here (this only applies to regional, not university- based chapters).

### **President**

Name: Melissa Ochoa

Email: mochoa94@midwestern.edu

### **Vice President**

Name: Caroline Rose

Email address: crose99@midwestern.edu



**Other Officers (e.g. treasurer, secretary etc.)**

Incl. position, name and email address

How frequently does your chapter hold elections? Biannually, in the Spring for President and Vice President and in the Fall for all other positions to allow incoming students to partake.

**Board members 2020-2021**

If nothing changes, please report this. If changes are scheduled for later in 2020, please provide the planned time frame for board and/or country representative changes. **Always make sure to update the Student Representative on Officer changes!**

**President:**

Name: Alyssa Schaefer

Email: aschaefer14@midwestern.edu

**Vice President**

Name: Michael Huffaker

Email address: mhuffaker39@midwestern.edu

**Other Officers**

Caroline Rose Treasurer, WDA Liaison

Crose99@midwestern.eedu



## Description of Chapter Activities

### PR & Fundraising

#### PR:

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable):

Chapter facebook page (if applicable): <https://www.facebook.com/groups/849924485025246/>

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- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter):
- Does your chapter have a newsletter? No

#### Member recruitment & Club outreach

- How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?
- Club fairs and facebook and MWU connect a networking app specific to Midwestern University. Also flyers and emails.

#### Collaboration:

- Which other groups does your chapter collaborate with? Students for One Health, Poultry Club, Anesthesia and Pain Management Club , Feline Club , Behavior Club
- If your chapter collaborates, what does the chapter do together with the other organization?
- Fundraisers and Bake sales to benefit Australian Wildfires. Often have joint talks with speakers that cross disciplines. Joint events where all clubs are encouraged to attend.

#### WDA-representation:

- How did your chapter promote the WDA? (i.e. hand-out WDA flyers, announced at meetings what WDA mission is and how to become a member, coordinated travel to the WDA conference)
- We have a strong facebook following and announce meetings through multiple avenues including but not limited to; MWU connect, emails, and other club pages.



### **Fundraising:**

- Does your chapter have a membership fee, if so what are the fees? \$20 membership fee annual
- Did your chapter host a fundraiser (i.e. cookie sale, gear sale)? Yes, bake sales, tshirt and merchandise sales.
- Did your chapter apply for grants and awards (i.e. WDA student chapter grants, university support)? We are applying for the WDA grants.
- Any other way the chapter's financial health is maintained (i.e. sponsorships)?
- WE charge students who are not members for events and talks . We receive sponsorship from SAVMA and the university.

### **EVENTS**

Please share the activities your chapter organized or co-organized between April 30th, 2019, and May 1st, 2020. It is ok to overlap if you mentioned some of the events above. In addition if you have exciting end of semester / summer plans please share those too. We love to know how you keep members engaged when school is not in session.

### **(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):**

Please provide a brief description of the activity, include at least the date(s), speaker/host/goal and approximate attendance. If you have pictures, please include them.

#### **Black-Footed Ferret Recovery Program**

Students will have the opportunity to participate in Arizona Game and Fish's Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program. This program focuses on identifying individuals within the multiple black-footed ferret populations to track trends, gather data on individual distribution, and provide medical care to these animals (including vaccinations) to contribute to their conservation efforts under Game and Fish officials. This will allow students to gain insights into fieldwork and conservation medicine.

#### **Avian Necropsy Lab**

Through collaboration with veterinarians in the community, a local wildlife rehabilitation center, and a university veterinary pathologist we offered a necropsy lab to allow students to use birds that had passed away or were found dead by the rehabilitation center to become more acquainted



with the necropsy process, avian anatomy, and wild bird pathology. The event was popular among members, so we plan to offer it again.

### Chronic Wasting Disease Workshop

Although we have not done this specific program with Midwestern University students yet, one of our officers arranged this program with her undergraduate WDA Chapter in the past. The workshop was held at the Arizona Game and Fish headquarters and was taught by employees who focused on wildlife disease and population management. The workshop covers prion diseases as a broad topic before focusing on chronic wasting disease (CWD) and additional information about the surveillance process. Once the classroom portion is finished, students are able to age hunter-harvested deer heads and then extract lymph nodes for CWD sampling. Dr Justice-Allen gave a web talk on her job as a state veterinarian.

### Belize Zoo & Problem Jaguar Program Volunteer Trip

Students are provided a unique opportunity to travel abroad and experience veterinary medicine in a different country, spending a week in the Tropical Education Center down the road from the Belize Zoo. Each day the student group (7-10 students) commutes to the zoo and spends the day there treating whatever animals the zoo must be examined under the supervision of the veterinarian accompanying them. Currently the zoo is in the process of constructing a clinic on the property but is reliant on the volunteering of various veterinarians and the students they bring with them. Students are provided the opportunity to work with exotic animals that would otherwise be seen naturally roaming in the country, ranging from scarlet macaws and harpy eagles to jaguars and tapirs. To save lives, the zoo is also home to wild jaguars deemed “problematic” in that they are too close and comfortable with going into human dwelling regions. They provide enrichment and care for these animals and students who go on this trip generally can work with these magnificent creatures and learn about the stories accompanying them. This year, there is also the opportunity to aid the large animal veterinarian traveling to Belize and Guatemala, seeing cases as needed for a day or two prior to beginning work in the zoo. Apart from work, there is some time to also explore and witness the natural beauty of the land and the animals in the environment as well as experiencing the culture to the fullest for a truly enriching experience.



Wildlife



### Rehabilitation Center Tour

We plan to take students on a tour of a large wildlife rehabilitation center local to the Phoenix area. This will show students what a wildlife rehabilitation operation entails and learn about the process from rehabilitators and veterinarians, as well as being able to see cases and treatments.

### Wildlife Darting Workshop

For multiple consecutive years, we've worked with a veterinarian who splits his time between private practice and a wildlife park to create a workshop on darting wildlife. Along with a senior animal keeper from the wildlife park, the veterinarians show us multiple pieces of equipment and darts used to immobilize wildlife and gives students a chance to try these pieces of equipment for themselves. This is a unique experience that serves as an introduction to wildlife and zoo immobilization, something students otherwise would not get exposure to.

### Guest Speakers

We are always in the process of reaching out to different professionals and finding new connections for our students, so we want to continue to offer guest speakers with backgrounds in wildlife health. This past year we hosted a veterinarian who specializes in large cat medicine who went over various health problems and drug dosages for procedures on these animals. We have also hosted a veterinarian who works with the Belize Zoo and their problem jaguar project to talk about her work and giving students the opportunity to work with her on the Belize trip. We have also contacted other veterinarians and hope to host them as speakers in the near future.

### **Lake Pleasant Beach Clean-up and Outreach**

Organized Earth Day event for students to interact with the public and clean the lake grounds and SCUBA divers to clean the lake itself.

### **Rat necropsy and spay wet lab**

Students were able to practice spays on deceased rats.

### **Captive Desert Tortoise Preventative Medicine Lab and Nutrition Web Talk**

### **Dolphin Medicine and Disease Talk**

### **Phoenix Zoo Tour**

### **Exotic Animal Medicine Talk with Dr Starks**

### **Rabbit Nail Trimming and Physical Exam Lab**



### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

We have hosted several webinars to replace cancelled Spring events. We hope to sponsor a ferret black lighting trip in the coming months and perhaps a trip to a larger venue such as the San Diego Zoo or Sea World. Our Beach clean-up was put on hold but will likely take place in the Fall.

### **!!!Regarding the WDA conference in 2021, Wisconsin**

To organize the next student event prior the annual meeting we decided to ask the student chapter officers:

What would you like to have as a main topic/red line? Relevant topic would be the public health aspect of wildlife medicine.

What would you like to see during this event in terms of lectures, workshops,...?