

Student Chapter Progress Report 2019-2020

Chapter Name:

University of Minnesota - College of Veterinary Medicine
Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association



Established in (if known): 12/22/2016

Mission: The mission of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association is to uphold the WDA mission *“to acquire, disseminate, and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation, and interactions with humans and domestic animals”* by educating students, enhancing their skills and ensuring their future professional growth by connecting students to professionals in the field.

Number of chapter members: 95

Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 4

Faculty Advisors

Name: Dr. Tiffany Wolf

Email: wolfx305@umn.edu

Name: Dr. Michelle Carstensen

Email: Michelle.Carstensen@state.mn.us

Current board members (2019-2020)

President

Name: Ellie Elsasser

Email: wiley080@umn.edu

Vice President

Name: Abigail Fiske

Email address: fiske034@umn.edu

Research Chair

Name: Marie Gilbertson

Email: mjones029@gmail.com

Elected* Board members (2020-2021)**President**

Name: Abigail Fiske

Email: fiske034@umn.edu

Vice President/President-Elect

Name: Grace Miller

Email: mill7222@umn.edu

Research Chair

Name: Meg McEachran

Email: thom4412@umn.edu

*Elections are held annually during the spring semester (March/April).

Description of Chapter Activities**Online presence:**

- At present, we share a facebook page with what we would call a “sibling” club at the University of Minnesota (Zoological, Exotics, Avian, Aquatics, and Wildlife Medicine Club - ZEAW). In past years we have had a separate Facebook account, but we found that having a joint page was easier for and preferred by our members.
- We email our members a monthly newsletter that includes information on our upcoming events and activities. The newsletter also includes updates and news stories regarding the National WDA and information on learning opportunities like conferences and webinars.

Member recruitment & Club outreach

- Each fall we participate in the College of Veterinary Medicine Activities Fair where we promote WDA and sign up potential new members.
- To make sure we reach all of our members, we announce our events via our monthly newsletter, facebook events, and sometimes in-person announcements/flyers (though this method is becoming less needed with the rise of the influence of social media). Additionally, our events are listed on the College of Veterinary Medicine Student Activities Calendar that all members have access to.
- We advertise the regular Ecosystem Health seminars through a pre-existing “Ecosystem Health” listserv, which extends our advertising to other colleges within the University of Minnesota and adds to the diversity of attendees at these events.

Collaboration:

- Our chapter works closely with the Zoo, Exotics, Avian, and Wildlife Medicine club. Our members overlap heavily, so we often host shared events. We have also worked with the CVM Dentistry club, Student Surgery Club, and Animal Behavior Club to host lunch lectures and wetlabs. In past years we have collaborated with the Research Animal Medicine Club and the Pathology Club. Additionally, we collaborate with professors, MS, and PhD students from other degree programs to host Ecosystem Health lectures.
- We have also had the privilege to collaborate with a variety of speakers from the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, the Raptor Center, and the two zoos nearby (Minnesota and Como). These professionals have given lunch lectures, provided examples of research opportunities, and have led wet labs.

WDA-representation/promotion:

- We promote the WDA through our monthly newsletter as well as our monthly lectures. Each month, the newsletter contains information on how to become a member of the WDA as well as the benefits of membership. Also, prior to each of our events, we encourage members to join the national WDA chapter.
- We promote the WDA Conferences in our newsletters along with separate emails devoted specifically to the conference(s).

Financial Report:

- This year our club was able to host all of the events without spending any money because we are fortunate enough to partner with ZEAW for many of our events. Our chapter does not currently charge membership fees because we do not need the funds. Additionally, we used this as a marketing tool and a way to help encourage students to join the national WDA chapter. Next year we will likely need funds for multiple events so we plan to do food sales as fundraisers as these have been successful in past years. Also,

we will be revisiting the idea of membership dues in accordance with our future plans for our chapter.

- We plan to apply for grants in the Fall for an event where students, faculty, and professionals in wildlife research and veterinary medicine will debrief the COVID-19 outbreak.

EVENTS

Student Activities Fair

Date: 9/13/19

Speaker/Host: WDA and ZEAW

Goal/Description: Information and conversations were had to increase awareness of the UMN Student WDA club and the national WDA organization. Students could sign up as new club members if interested.

Approximate Attendance: 200 students, open to all CVM and Graduate students

Wildlife and Exotics Summer Experiences Panel

Date: 10/30/19

Speaker/Host: Speakers included members of the WDA and ZEAW board

Goal/Description: Students presented information and advice on summer experiences and opportunities for the incoming first and second year students.

Approximate Attendance: 40

Reptile Handling and Behavior

Date: 10/8/2019

Speaker/Host: Emilly Roberts from Snake Discovery

Goal/Description: This event was held for students to learn about common diseases, behavior and proper handling of a wide variety of reptiles including snakes, lizards, and chameleons.

Approximate Attendance: 56

Efforts in Wildlife Research Lunch Lecture

Date: 10/29/19

Speaker/Host: Tiffany Wolf, DVM, PhD - Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Population Medicine

Goal/Description: This lecture was presented by Dr. Wolf who discussed her current and past research in wildlife health. The lecture covered her research on the role of wildlife in multihost pathogen systems.

Approximate Attendance: 16

Zoo Medicine at Minnesota Zoo

Date: 11/12/2019

Speaker/Host: Carl Larson, DVM

Goal/Description: This lecture covered the daily life of a zoo vet and the types of diseases, trauma, and other medical incidents that they may encounter.

Approximate Attendance: 54

One Health Lunch Lecture

Date: 11/7/2019

Speaker/Host: Dominic Travis, DVM, MS - Associate Professor, Department of Veterinary Population Medicine

Goal/Description: The goal of this lecture was to teach club members about the concept of One Health and to describe possible career options within the field.

Approximate Attendance: 19

Species 360 and ZIMS Lunch Lecture

Date: 1/31/2020

Speaker/Host: Rachel Thompson, DVM - Species 360

Goal/Description: This lecture explained the evolution and current use of the ZIMS/Species 360 network. ZIMS/Species 360 is a global network that aims to improve animal welfare and species conservation by compiling medical data on exotic species from professionals all over the world.

Approximate Attendance: 20

Behavior Lecture: Zoo Animal Focus

Date: 2/19/20

Speaker/Host: Valarie Tynes, DVM, DACVB, DACAW

Goal/Description: This 2-part lecture covered the behavioral characteristics of wildlife, with an emphasis on zoo species, and pharmacological interventions. This lecture was in partnership with the Behavior Club. There were 2 lectures in this series, the first focused on exotic species commonly kept as pets and the second

focused on zoo species. The first part of the lecture was held at the college and the second part was held at a local brewery.

Approximate Attendance: 18

Ecosystem Health Seminars:

Throughout the year, multiple Ecosystem Health Seminars were held with feature presentations from graduate students, postdocs, and faculty conducting diverse research in the realm of ecosystem health from across the university.

<u>Ecosystem Health Seminars</u>		
Date	Presenter(s)	Presentation Topic
9/9/2019	Various Graduate Students	Summer Research Topics “round robin”
9/23/2019	Meg McEachran	The role of baitfish in the spread of fish pathogens: Identifying hazards and quantifying risk
10/21/2019	Lauren Bernstein	Understanding the zoonotic risk of echinococcosis in Minnesota tribal communities
11/18/2019	Laramie Lindsey	Differential Expression in Testis and Liver Transcriptomes from Four Species of Peromyscus (Rodentia: Cricetidae)
12/16/2019	Tyler Garwood	Next Step in Helping Minnesota Moose: Understanding and Preventing Brainworm Transmission
1/27/2020	Janine Mistrick	Space use networks by food availability and intestinal macroparasites in wild voles
2/10/2020	Marc Schwabenlander	MNPRO and Chronic Wasting Disease
2/24/2020	Marie Gilbertson	En-ROADS climate solutions simulator: a classroom tool for teaching climate change and ecosystem health?
3/16/2020	Luiz Gustavo R.O. Santos	Predator fear and movement of intermediate host modulate the dead-end host exposure to invertebrate vector: The case of wolf-deer-moose-snail

3/30/2020	Isaiah Tolo	Evaluating viruses for pathogen biocontrol of common carp in Minnesota
4/27/2020	Irene Bueno Padilla	Diclofenac and other Non-steroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs: Are Vultures in the Iberian Peninsula at Risk?

*Average attendance for these lectures: 10-20 veterinary students, graduate students, postdoctoral associates, and/or faculty

The remainder of the events for spring and summer 2020 were canceled due to COVID-19.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Unfortunately, many of our spring events had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We had lectures planned about wildlife dentistry, triaging the wildlife patient, and zoo research/conservation efforts. Additionally, we had planned a brewery “happy hour” event open to all interested MS, PhD, and CVM students and faculty. We planned to use this event to incorporate more MS and PhD students into the club. This event was also a networking event for students. We plan to move these events to the fall semester if the pandemic restrictions are no longer present.

As the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine Student Chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association executive board, we want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to grow this chapter here in Minnesota so that we can provide students with knowledge outside of the normal curriculum.

Thank you,

Ellie Elsasser % 2022, Abigail Fiske % 2022, Marie Gilbertson, DVM, PhD Candidate

What would you like to have as a main topic/red line?

- How wildlife disease impacted the COVID - 19 outbreak.

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

- We would like to see more information on how veterinary professionals can utilize their medical abilities to aid in conservation efforts.