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All Wildlife Diseases, All Conservation, All One Health, All the Time!

#### NEWS ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 52(1)

Health of wildlife, domestic species and human beings, and the environments that support them (One Health), has been a focus of the Wildlife Disease Association for more than 50 years. The January 2016 Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) issue 52(1) has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

Bacterial infections are a common finding in sick and dead sea otters. In **Prevalence, Pathology, and Risk Factors Associated With *Streptococcus Phocae* Infection in Southern Sea Otters (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), 2004-2010** a team from U.C. Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and California Fish and Wildlife, lead by Georgina Bartlett of University of Liverpool show that 30% of fresh dead sea otters examined over a six year period had *S. phocae* in their blood or tissues. Skin trauma of any type, including mating or fight wounds, shark bite, and anthropogenic trauma, was identified as a significant risk factor for infection. Infected sea otters were also more likely to have abscesses or bacterial septicemia.

*Bartonella* bacteria are notorious for causing local and systemic infections in people bitten by wild animals. Kyeong Soon Kim and 11 colleagues from several Japanese institutions examined 641 small mammals belonging to 17 species of rodents in Japan, Korea, Russia, Taiwan, and Thailand. In **Prevalence and Diversity of *Bartonella* Species in Wild Small Mammals in Asia** they found *Bartonella* in 54.6% of the collected animals. The prevalence varied depending on the host species and the country of origin.

Historically, lead poisoning due to lead shot ingestion was one of the largest health issues affecting waterfowl in North America. Its persistence in the environment remains an issue. In **Shot Ingestion by Wintering Female Northern Pintails (*Anas acuta*) in the Texas Coastal Plain, 2012–2014**, Nathaniel Huck and colleagues from Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Texas Parks and Wildlife found shot or metal fragments (or both) in the gizzards of 39 (17%) of 227 birds. Overall, shot (lead and nontoxic combined) ingestion rates were similar to those found prior to the lead shot ban in Texas (14%) and Louisiana (17%); however, lead shot ingestion rates were considerably lower, suggesting that it is becoming less available over time.

Ranaviruses are a very serious disease affecting a variety of amphibians and reptiles and can be transmitted by contaminated water and sediment. James Munro and colleagues from the Center for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Sciences in the United Kingdom examined **Survival of Frog Virus 3 in Freshwater and Sediment from an English Lake**. In water, there was a 90% reduction in virus titer in 5 days when the temperature was 30C, but 34 days when it was 4C. Virus titers fell much faster (1-10 days) in sediments.

Taiwan had been considered rabies free for more than 50 years until it was identified in ferret badgers in mid-June 2013. A group of eight researchers from **Taiwan** and **Japan** led by **Hue-Ying Chiou** investigated **Pathology and Molecular Detection of Rabies Virus in Ferret Badgers Associated With a Rabies Outbreak in Taiwan**. The earliest case of rabies was traced back to 2004.

Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 52(1) are available at the WDA website under Publications. If you are interested in getting access to the full article contact [wda.manager@gmail.com](mailto:wda.manager@gmail.com)



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