Join Us Down-Under at the 2015 WDA Meeting in Queensland, Australia!

Hosted by WDA’s Australasian section, the 2015 conference will be held at the Novotel Twin Waters Resort (www.novoteltwinwatersresort.com.au/), on the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, from Sunday July 26 to Thursday July 30. The resort is conveniently located close to some of southeast Queensland’s best natural attractions, including whale watching, the Eumundi markets, Australia Zoo, the Blackall Range and Noosa and Conondale National Parks, and just over an hour from Brisbane’s domestic and international airport.

The conference theme is “Wildlife Disease Driving Evolution.” World renowned plenary speakers will lead sessions on One Health, Emerging Wildlife Diseases in Australasia, Wildlife Disease and Evolution, and Marine Ecosystems Health. This is a FANTASTIC opportunity to learn more about cutting edge wildlife health and disease topics through five days of incredible educational presentations and workshops!

Abstracts are invited on topics relevant to any of the symposia themes: (i) Wildlife disease ecology driving evolution, (ii) One health and PREDICT, (iii) Emerging diseases in Australasia, and (iv) Marine ecosystems health. Additionally, abstracts on any other area of wildlife health/disease and possible implications for wildlife management are also welcome.

REMEMBER! Early bird registration closes April 26, 2015!
To register, visit www.wda2015.org/registration/ or, for further information, contact wdaaustralia2015@gmail.com.

Students! Have you always wanted to go to Australia? Here’s your chance! WDA is accepting applications for student travel grants for the 2015 Conference! Send in your application now!

Visit the 2015 WDA Conference website to learn more! www.wda2015.org

Editor’s Note: I HIGHLY recommending you make the trip...and take extra time (weeks? months?) to explore some of Australia & learn about it’s unique ecosystems and wildlife! (not to mention a few distinctive wildlife diseases that affect them—e.g.: Tasmanian devils, koalas....) Possibly rent a camper and go off on your own to see the Outback, the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests, the Great Ocean Road, Kakadu National Park... — just watch out for those large reptiles with the big teeth and the octopi with the pretty blue rings! Oh, and a few snakes and insects too....HAVE FUN!
Need more ideas? Contact Sarah Alexander for suggestions.

www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/SECTIONS/WildlifeVeterinary.aspx
Remember to join our LinkedIn Group!
A message from Anne Justice-Allen, the WVS section Chair

The desert here in Arizona is starting to bloom thanks to a couple of late winter rains. We still didn’t get enough moisture in the high country so there are concerns for the summer fire season. Unfortunately, I’m not out working in it because this is the time of the year when I spend most of my time in the office tabulating the data from our capture events late last year and writing up reports.

One of the projects I’m working on is a wildlife disease event response plan. Developing a plan that will be applicable for the many species and at several levels has been challenging. The first step in the plan is trying to figure out how serious an event is and then to try to identify the cause or causes. The ultimate difficulty then is what can or should be done to manage the situation. As a veterinarian my training and inclination is to try and fix things which isn’t always possible. Often it seems that we can just make things a little bit better and hope that somewhere down the road we don’t find out that we made it a whole lot worse.

I had hoped to get started on a set of by-laws for the section well before this but field work started early this year. I’ll be sending out a draft (probably borrowed from a similar organization) in early April to anyone who wants to help with drawing up by-laws for the section. If you want to help, please send me an email. I don’t think we need anything too complicated but we should line out how and when the section leadership is selected, what those positions are, how we decide to spend the dues that are collected, and who has the authority to spend section dues. I’d also like to include a something about who we are and what we do.

We are still looking for some contributions for a section logo. Ideally, they should be submitted electronically as a jpg or similar file but if you need to scan something that was hand drawn and send a pdf that is ok too. I have a graphic artist that can take the submitted art work and create a digital version.

Please check out our LinkedIn group! Discussion groups such as this are only as interesting as the people who use them, so feel free to start a thread. Don’t be concerned that others won’t find it interesting or valuable. With over 200 members, the likelihood that someone will have a comment or information is high.

Looking to the future, the deadline for abstract submission to the annual meeting is approaching at the end of March. The meeting being organized by our Australian colleagues is shaping up to be one of the best. My husband and I have done our research and we have an itinerary all ready to go. We’ve included a pre-conference trip to New Zealand and a post-conference tour up the coast to Cairns. I’m looking forward to meeting more of our international members and learning how wildlife disease management is done in their part of the world! I am sure that we will be learning much from each other.

~~ Anne

Drs. Jonas Malmsten (National Veterinary Institute, SVA) and Fredrik Stenbacka (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU) handle and sample a cow moose on the Isle of Öland in the Baltic Sea.

The SVA and SLU are investigating low summer survival rates of moose calves in the absence of large carnivores, as well as studying moose population health and condition in its southern range.
~ TREASURER'S REPORT, Nancy Boedeker ~

We now have an account balance of $5090.00 and about 300 members in the WVS, which is now WDA’s largest section and almost a 1/4 of WDA’s total membership! The Wildlife Veterinary Section is open to all WDA members, especially veterinarians, veterinary students and technicians. Membership in WVS has grown significantly in the past year. Your contributions help support student involvement in WDA, offset workshop expenses, and cover travel costs for invited speakers at the annual meeting. ~~Thank You!!

If you have not yet paid your WDA and WVS section dues for 2015, Please Do So Now!

Want to donate to the WVS & help us do more?
1) Go to our website, www.wildlifedisease.org. Click on the "Sections" heading, then "Donate to a section," followed by "Wildlife Veterinary." Alternatively, you can click on "Sections," then "Wildlife Veterinary," then "Donate to a section." The drop down menu suggests a minimum donation of $20 (but feel free to do more (or less) than the minimum!); or...
2) Respond to the hard copy renewal notice if you receive one in the mail.

~ On Call ~

Challenge yourself with this real case scenario — you are a wildlife veterinarian who is assisting the local wildlife management agency—how would you respond? Check the next newsletter to find out!

And.... Email me with YOUR OWN SCENARIO to challenge others in a future issue!

The Call: A local wildlife biologist has received a call about an adult moose who has apparently been stranded for a couple of days in a river at the bottom of a deep gully running alongside a busy road between two popular tourist towns.

The Challenge:
- How do you get the moose out? What drugs and/or equipment are needed?
- How do you protect yourself, the biologists, & the mass of people surrounding the side of the road who want to watch (and post everything to their favorite social media site)?
- What samples from the moose do you need to determine what’s wrong with it?
- Do you treat the moose? If so, how?
- How do you recommend the biologists respond to the public?
US Members! Wildlife VETS Bill to be Reintroduced!

H.R. 2796 called to expand the workforce of veterinarians specialized in the care and conservation of wild animals and their ecosystems, and to develop educational programs focused on wildlife and zoological veterinary medicine. Congressman Alcee Hastings is looking to reintroduce the Wildlife VETS Bill in this Congress.

If you would like to see such a bill passed, contact your representative to express your support and let others know!

Dr. Cindy Driscoll conducting a necropsy on a Sei whale—looks like she would be appreciative of expanding our wildlife veterinary workforce!

Welcome to a new section of the newsletter....please send in your own contributions (and accompanying photos) for future newsletters!

Australians! How about one from you for the summer, 2015, issue?

Wildlife Disease Outbreak—Ducks Dying by the Droves!

Not seen for many decades, avian cholera (Pasteurella multocida Type 1) is taking a severe toll on wintering waterfowl, especially American coots, at Walker Lake in Nevada (USA). Dr. Peregrine Wolff, Nevada Dept. of Wildlife Veterinarian, doesn’t feel it will have a large overall population impact, but it has affected the dense concentration of birds in the area this winter, as up to 10 percent of them have succumbed since December, 2014. It likely will not subside until the birds disperse in the spring for their breeding grounds. Local residents have assisted the Nevada Department of Wildlife in carcass collection and disposal to prevent further spread of the outbreak.

Avian cholera is highly infectious—it is readily transmitted by bird-to-bird contact or by contact with feces or secretions from infected birds. It can kill birds peracutely, or cause neurologic signs and abnormal droppings and discharges prior to death.

Drs. Cindy Driscoll, Sherill Davison, and Erica Miller conduct a necropsy on a snowy owl, as part of Project Snowstorm, www.projectsnowstorm.org.

In the winter of 2014, one of the largest snowy owl irruptions ever to the lower United States resulted in the formation of Project Snowstorm to learn as much as possible about these cool arctic predators by coordinating banding, pathology, and live owl sampling between veterinarians, biologists, and wildlife rehabilitators from 8 states across the eastern U. S.
## Upcoming Conferences, Workshops...

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 29 - 31</td>
<td>8th One Health Bangladesh Conference</td>
<td>Dhaka, Bangladesh</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 6-10</td>
<td>46th Annual International Association of Aquatic Animal Medicine Meeting and Conference</td>
<td>Chicago, IL, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18–23</td>
<td>2nd International Conference on Avian, Herpetological and Exotic Mammal Medicine (2nd ICARE)</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 19-21</td>
<td>Northeast Fish and Wildlife Conference</td>
<td>Newport, RI, USA</td>
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<td>May 13-16</td>
<td>International Conference on Diseases of Zoo and Wild Animals</td>
<td>Barcelona, Spain</td>
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<td>May 21-22</td>
<td>WVA/WMA Global Conference on One Health</td>
<td>Madrid, Spain</td>
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<td>May 30–June 4</td>
<td>Aquatic Ecosystem Health, 2015</td>
<td>Gainesville, Florida, USA</td>
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<td>June 1-12</td>
<td>International Course on Advanced Principles of Toxicology</td>
<td>Univ. Guelph, Ontario, Canada</td>
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<td>July 26-30</td>
<td>WDA Annual Conference</td>
<td>Queensland, Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 24 - 26</td>
<td>The International Conference on Parasitology</td>
<td>Philadelphia, PA, USA</td>
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<td>Sept. 13-17</td>
<td>32nd World Veterinary Congress, Instanbul, Turkey</td>
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<td>Sept. 24-27</td>
<td>II Biennial Conference, WDA Latin America</td>
<td>Bogota, Columbia</td>
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<td>Sept. 26-Oct. 2</td>
<td>American Association of Zoo Veterinarians and American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians</td>
<td>Portland, OR, USA</td>
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<td>Sept. 27-Oct. 1</td>
<td>Society for Vector Ecology International Congress</td>
<td>Albuquerque, NM, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 28-Oct 1</td>
<td>International Conference on Behavior, Physiology, and Genetics in Wildlife</td>
<td>Berlin, Germany</td>
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<td>Oct. 17-21</td>
<td>22st Annual Conference of the Wildlife Society</td>
<td>Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada</td>
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<td>Oct. 22-28</td>
<td>American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians and United States Animal Health Association</td>
<td>Providence, RI, USA</td>
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<td>Nov 1-4</td>
<td>Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</td>
<td>Asheville, NC, USA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13-18</td>
<td>21st Biennial Conference on Marine Mammals</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA, USA</td>
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<td>Summer 2016:</td>
<td>WDA Annual Conference</td>
<td>Ithaca, New York, USA, USA</td>
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Remember to visit the WDA website regularly to stay updated about upcoming meetings and training opportunities!

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## Wildlife Health Links

- **Wildlife Data Integration Network,** [wdin.blogspot.com/](http://wdin.blogspot.com/). An excellent resource for wildlife health related issues—new publications, meetings, press articles....
WDA-WVS Objectives

- To promote and encourage the utilization of veterinarians in the field of wildlife resource management and research.
- To enhance the contribution of veterinary medicine to the welfare of the wildlife resource.
- To stress the importance of the connectedness of human, wildlife, domestic animal, and environmental health.
- To encourage cooperative efforts among resource management professionals and wildlife veterinarians.
- To encourage and promote a philosophy of animal management and preventative medicine as it relates to free-ranging species.
- To encourage an increased emphasis in colleges of veterinary medicine relative to management and preventative medicine of free-ranging species.
- To encourage the recognition of disease syndromes in their broadest sense as potentially influenced by habitat succession, alteration and pollution.
- To educate and gain rapport with government agencies and wildlife resource interest groups concerning the importance of wildlife preventative medicine and disease in relation to the wildlife resource and domestic species.
- To educate and inform governmental agencies and wildlife resource interest groups about support and educational services which may be provided by wildlife veterinarians.
- To help establish and work for continuing education programs for wildlife veterinarians.
- To provide mentorship to students interested in all aspects of wildlife health.

~ Nina’s Notes (aka: a note from the editor)~

As you see, I’ve taken the liberty to add a few new sections to our newsletter to “spice it up” a bit. My sincere apologies for the long delay in sending out a newsletter to you—2014 ended up being a continuous blur of unexpected family health calamities, so my time was devoted elsewhere. Hopefully, the wait has been worth it, and you like what you see in this new version of WVS’s newsletter?

Remember—the quality of the newsletter depends on YOU! So... please send photos or an item you want included to Nina at adkwildvet@verizon.net (and....since I study loons, if you don’t want me to turn this into a loony-bin, send those items in!)

~~ Many thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter, especially Drs. Jonas Malmsten, Cindy Driscoll, and Anne Justice-Allen!

To have an announcement sent directly to the WVS members, contact Holly Ernest at hernest@uwyo.edu

Have fun following our discussions on our LinkedIn Group!