Chapter: University of Pennsylvania Wildlife Disease Association (PennVet WDA)
Established in: 2017
Mission: Our mission is to educate students on wildlife, disease, and One Health topics and skills that are not presented in our curriculum. In addition, we aim to provide networking opportunities to give students an understanding of the different job opportunities in wildlife

Number of chapter members: 60
Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 2

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ali Sanz</th>
<th>Mackenzie Hlesciak</th>
<th>Tianna Chin</th>
<th>Pierce Nathanson</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hannah Loonsk</td>
<td>Vivian Bui</td>
<td>Sara Mansuri</td>
<td>James Ferara</td>
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<td>Ian Hollinshead</td>
<td>Alexandria Brothers</td>
<td>Colin Hansen</td>
<td>Michelle Cesarano</td>
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<td>Adria Schlesman</td>
<td>Chandler Navara</td>
<td>Amy Cherico</td>
<td>Stefan Gallini</td>
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<td>Megan Lang</td>
<td>Jen Reukauf</td>
<td>Brinkley Raynor</td>
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<td>Zoë Vesley-Gross</td>
<td>Emily Nelson</td>
<td>Meriel Walsh</td>
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<td>Noah Shulman</td>
<td>Audrey Ghanian</td>
<td>Carolann Daidone</td>
<td>Haley Nelson</td>
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<td>Ally Hartzell</td>
<td>Marisa Beckett</td>
<td>Rachel Reineke</td>
<td>Albert George</td>
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<td>Katherine Bingham</td>
<td>Greta Niedermeiyer</td>
<td>Justyna Ozog</td>
<td>Matt Vail</td>
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<td>Rita Baorto</td>
<td>Katherine Geating</td>
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<td>Alyssa Lehman</td>
<td>Nathalie Suciu</td>
<td>Sara Jastrebski</td>
<td>Abigaile Frerotte</td>
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<td>Miriam Fink</td>
<td>Lisa Wu</td>
<td>SaraJane Harrington</td>
<td>Maggie Marcinczyk</td>
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<td>Jennifer Kuhn</td>
<td>Joshua Lieberman</td>
<td>Hayley Keller</td>
<td>Allie Scott</td>
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<td>Julianne McDonough</td>
<td>Kimi Sharma</td>
<td>Emily Gardner</td>
<td>Aga Galej</td>
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<td>Laura Badeski</td>
<td>Jane Mesna</td>
<td>Christine Kasparov</td>
<td>Chloe Borriello</td>
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Faculty Advisor
Dr. Peter DiGeronimo
Exotics Staff Veterinarian
pmidgley@vet.upenn.edu
Current Board Members (2017-2018)

President
Alexandra Sanz
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Vice President
Michelle Cesarano
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Secretary
James Ferrara
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Treasurer
Justyna Ozog
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Events Coordinator
Amy Rifkin
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New Board members (2018-2019) (elections held every spring)

President
Magdalena Marcinczyk
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Vice President
Zoë Vesley-Gross
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Secretary
Katherine Bigham
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Treasurer
Tianna Chin
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Events Coordinator
SaraJane Harrington
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PR

Member recruitment:
Penn Vet Club Fair: We handed out candy and stickers, and spoke with new students about the opportunities that the WDA have to offer, and encouraged them to join the club.

Collaboration: We plan events with other student clubs at Penn, particularly the special species club, parasitology club, and the One Health Club

WDA representation:
We send out emails through our listserv promoting the benefits of becoming a WDA membership such as national and international conferences each year, mentorship programs to connect students with specialized wildlife veterinarians, newsletters to keep you connected to wildlife issues and job opportunities, and student travel grants for wildlife!
FUNDING

SAVMA Student Chapter: We receive a small amount of money from our Student American Veterinary Association student club, which funds multiple clubs at Penn Vet and is funded by an annual live auction.

EVENTS

10/31 NOAA dinner talk with Dr. Whaley
Our club teamed up with PennVet’s One Health Club to help host Fish Week, involving bringing a number of speakers to talk about aquatics, the environment, and marine species. Dr. Whaley spoke about what one health is and her role as a veterinarian at NOAA. The last half hour were spent on questions, in which students asked about fish health, fish distribution, and the consumer market. 29 students attended, and dinner was served.

11/3 Wildlife Career Round Table
Penn Vet’s WDA club hosted a career round table, in which 10 different wildlife veterinarians came to discuss their opinions in the field and answer questions that students submitted. After the panel, we hosted a networking event at a local restaurant, where students learned about opportunities and mentorship with these veterinarians. 26 students attended, and snacks and refreshments were served.
FISH WEEK
WDA&OHC
WILDLIFE
CAREER
ROUND TABLE

Join the Wildlife Disease Association for a panel discussion and interactive networking event with ten wildlife and exotic veterinarians from around the East coast.

5pm Speaker Introductions
6pm Networking at a local bar
Refreshments Served
For Info Email: jafe@upenn.vet.edu

FRIDAY NOV 3RD @5PM H132

DR. PETER DIGERONIMO
completed a 1 year specialty internship in zoological medicine after spending 5 years in small animal and exotic companion animal private practice and earning a MSc in Wildlife and Ecosystem Health. He currently works as a staff veterinarian in the Exotic Companion Animal Medicine and Surgery Service and serves as the faculty advisor for the PennVet student chapter of the Wildlife Disease Association.

DR. LEN DONATO
a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in the avian specialty. He is the owner of Radnor Veterinary Hospital in Wayne, PA where he practices small animal and exotic companion animal medicine, as well as wildlife rehabilitation. He often teaches wet labs for veterinary students and mentors new graduates interested in exotic companion animal practice.

DR. CHRISTINE HIGBIE
completed a 1 year rotating small animal internship. After working as a small animal general practitioner in a specialty hospital for several years, she completed a 1 year specialty internship followed by a 3 year residency in zoological medicine. She is currently an associate veterinarian at the National Aquarium in Baltimore.
**DR. MATT GROOTENBOER**

Completed a 2 year rotating small animal internship followed by a 1 year exotic animal specialty internship. He has a strong background in interest in zoo animal health management and is currently in exotic companion animal practice in a specialty private practice.

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**DR. KRISTIN GARDINER**

Pursued veterinary medicine as a second career. Following vet school, Dr. Gardiner completed a 1 year specialty internship in exotic companion animal medicine and is currently in the third and final year of a laboratory animal residency. She also works part time at Tri-State Bird Rescue practicing wild bird rehabilitation.

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**DR. KEN DAZEN**

a diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in the avian specialty. He is the owner of the Animal and Bird Health Care Center in Cherry Hill, NJ where he practices small animal and avian medicine. He has rededicated himself as an ABVP- Avian consultant and takes pride in mentoring new graduates interested in avian medicine.

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**DR. SHARONDA MEADE**

Pursued veterinary medicine after having earned a PhD in poultry immunology. She practiced small animal and exotic companion animal medicine for several years before completing a specialty internship in exotic companion animal medicine. She currently works in small animal and exotic companion animal practice where she also sees wildlife cases in collaboration with local rehabilitators.

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**DR. LA'TOYA LATNEY**

Completed a 1.5 year specialty internship followed by a 2 year residency in exotic companion animal practice. She is a diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine in the Zoo Health Management Subspecialty. She currently serves as head of the Exotic Companion Animal Medicine and Surgery Service at PennVet. She has a strong background in wildlife rehabilitation and lectures widely on exotic companion animal and wildlife medicine to students, veterinarians, and rehabilitation. Dr. Latney serves as the faculty advisor for the Special Species Club at PennVet.

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**DR. ERICA MILLER**

A wildlife veterinarian well-known for her work at Tri-State Bird Rescue in Newark, DE and as a first responder to oil spills for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. She is the veterinarian for Brandywine Zoo in DE as well as a state veterinarian for NJ. Her work spans from individual to population health of captive and free-ranging wildlife. She teaches wildlife medicine at Penn Vet and has mentored many up and coming veterinarians interested in wildlife medicine.

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**DR. COLIN MCDERMOTT**

Completed a 2 year specialty internship in exotic companion animal medicine followed by a 2 year fellowship in aquatic animal medicine at the National Aquarium in Baltimore. He currently works in small animal and exotic companion animal private practice. He is heavily involved in the Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians and Association of Fish Veterinarians and in wild turtle rehabilitation.
11/4 Hawk Mountain Field Trip
Dr. Latney (special species head at Penn Vet) and Dr. Gardner (lab animal intern and avian veterinarian) joined a group of 30 students to Hawk Mountain, which is one of the oldest raptor sanctuaries in the country. Rachel Spagnola, the head educator, gave the WDA club a tour and history of the sanctuary. We first attended a show, hosted by Shaver Creek Education Center, where students saw up close a Golden Eagle and a Bald Eagle and were educated about their life history. After, students went to the raptor care facility and learned how to perform a visual exam on an Eastern Screech Owl from the veterinarians, and a lesson on raptor husbandry by observing the enclosures. Students were then given trail passes to explore the sanctuary on their own. We asked that students donate $5 to the sanctuary and presented a check to them on behalf of the WDA Club.
11/30 Penguin Conservation Talk
Dr. Samantha Sander from the Maryland Zoo came to talk to a group of 40 students during lunch. Pizza was served. The talk included Dr. Sander’s work on conservation of African penguins and general management, care, and common diseases of penguins.

2/7 Wildlife Pathology Wet Lab
Dr. Erica Miller (Tristate Bird Rescue) and Dr. Molly Church (PennVet Pathology) teamed up to give a 2.5 lab on wildlife pathology. A 20-30 minute powerpoint presentation was given in the beginning to describe diagnostic sample technique (do's and don'ts). About 12 carcasses were necropsied by groups of 2-3 students. Students practiced necropsy techniques such as: impression smears, tissue collection, blood collection. Diseases identified included WNV, poxvirus, lipomas, capillaria, and more.

2/14 Wildlife Histopathology
Students who participated in the necropsy lab came back to look at the tissues they collected under the microscope. Dr. Church used samples from her collection as well to give good examples of what parasites and WNV looks like histologically. Cookies were served.

5/2 Parasites in exotic species lunch talk
The WDA collaborated with PennVet’s parasitology club to host a lunch talk on parasites in exotic species, given by our own faculty advisor, Dr. DiGeronimo!