Why a New WDA Section?

Previously, the president of the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (AAWV) served as the chair for the de facto WDA Wildlife Veterinary Section. Initially this arrangement was appropriate because all members of the AAWV were also members of WDA, and WDA bylaws stipulate that Sections need to be entirely made up of WDA members with a “common identity”, which is usually geographic in nature (e.g. Latin American Section). However, as membership of AAWV grew, there became less overlap between the groups; at present only about 60% of AAWV members are also members of WDA. To comply with WDA bylaws, the decision was made to create a new section whose common identity is “the application of veterinary science to the conservation and management of wildlife disease/health”. The officers of the WVS are committed to building upon the work started by the AAWV, and are grateful to the AAWV officers and members who got the ball rolling.

From the WVS Officers:
We are pleased to share with you the inaugural issue of the WDA-WVS Newsletter. The newsletter will be published quarterly and directly distributed electronically to section members, and will be available to all WDA members on the WDA-WVS website: [http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wildlife_veterinarian.shtml].

In this issue, we introduce the section officers whom you elected early this summer. As we make the transition into this new form of governance, we will be looking to our members to help guide the section, through participation in member surveys and webinars, as board members, and as contributors to the WVS webpage and newsletter. Please feel free to contact any of the officers with questions, concerns, or items you would like to see covered.

WVS Notes:
- As of 2013, WVS will be asking section members to pay $10 dues to help support section functions. Section dues can be paid by checking the appropriate box on your WDA membership renewal form.
- Please watch for an email with a link to a “Survey Monkey” questionnaire, which will help us better identify member interests and expertise.
- We will be soliciting section members to serve on our advisory board, which will have an active role in defining the bylaws and guiding the direction of the section.
MEET THE OFFICERS

Chairman: Jon M. Arnemo, DVM, PhD, Dipl ECZM

Dr. Arnemo is a professor of biomedicine at Hedmark University College (Norway) and a visiting professor and research veterinarian at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. He is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine with a Doctor of Philosophy degree in pharmacology and is a Diplomate of the European College of Zoological Medicine (Wildlife Population Health). After six years in private mixed animal practice, he became a full-time wildlife veterinarian in 1991. His teaching and major research topics include wildlife anesthesia, conservation medicine, and wound ballistics. He has been involved in numerous wildlife capture operations in Europe, Asia, Africa, North America and South America. He resides with his family on a mountain farm in south-central Norway and is a dedicated large game hunter. (jon.arnemo@hihm.no)

Secretary: Anne Justice-Allen, DVM, MS

Dr. Justice-Allen is the Supervisor of the Wildlife Health Program for the Arizona Game and Fish Department. She completed her veterinary degree at the University of California, Davis. After working as a general veterinary practitioner for 21 years, she returned to school and completed a Master of Science program at Utah State University. Her research on Mycoplasma spp. included molecular detection methods for tissues and milk, environmental survival, and disease ecology. Dr. Justice-Allen is continuing her work on infectious diseases at the Arizona Game and Fish Department with research projects on Pigeon paramyxovirus 1, mycoplasma pneumonia in desert bighorn sheep, and identifying the pathogens of collared pecanies (Pecari tajacu) and pronghorns (Antilocapra americana). A recent interest is capture stress and physiology of pronghorns and the influence of capture methods on stress level. (ajustice-allen@azgfd.gov)
Treasurer: Nadine Lamberski, DVM, Dipl ACZM

Dr. Lamberski is the Associate Director of Veterinary Services at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park and is an adjunct professor at the University of California-Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine. She is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, a Diplomat of the American College of Zoological Medicine, and a Past President of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians. She has over twenty years experience working with a very broad-range of captive wildlife species in a zoo setting. During her zoo career, she developed an affinity for giraffe anesthesia. She is also very interested in the impacts and management of disease on small or fragmented populations. Her field projects includes a long-term study of black-footed cats and small carnivores in southern Africa and the health assessment and disease monitoring of thick-billed parrots in northern Mexico. For the past several years, she has been the primary veterinarian for the Desert Tortoise Conservation Center in Las Vegas and is an advisor to the USFWS Desert Tortoise Recovery Office. She resides in a small town along the southern California coast and is an avid tennis player. (nlamberski@sandiegozoo.org)

Student Representative: Tom Vowell, MS

In 2010 Tom graduated from Sydney University with a Masters of Wildlife Health and Population Management. As part of his Masters, Tom completed a thesis on the presence of Macrorhabdus ornithogaster in captive and wild finches. He is currently in his second year of Veterinary Science at The Sydney University and working as a volunteer in the Taronga Zoo Veterinary Laboratory. Tom has been the secretary of the Sydney University Wildlife Society for the past year and has aimed to equip students with skills needed to be effective in wildlife conservation by arranging programs run for them by wildlife veterinarians. Tom enjoys getting out in the field to aid others in their research when his University Schedule permits. (tvow3021@uni.sydney.edu.au)

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Castle, DVM, MS

Dr. Castle is a veterinarian with the Wildlife Health Branch of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) Biological Resource Management Division, headquartered in Ft. Collins, CO. Kevin received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Zoology from Colorado State University (CSU), and received his DVM from CSU in 2003. Kevin has extensive experience working with amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals in field and laboratory settings, as a wildlife researcher and as a veterinarian. As one of five wildlife veterinarians in the NPS, Kevin works with parks and regions nationwide to preserve and improve the health of wildlife populations by providing professional and technical assistance regarding animal health and welfare issues, zoonotic diseases, disease outbreak investigations, and training for park staff. He enjoys backpacking with his wife, playing ice hockey, and trail running. (kevin_castle@nps.gov)
WVS OBJECTIVES

(modified from AAWV 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 of 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.

To have an item included in the newsletter, contact Kevin. To have an announcement sent to the WVS members, directly contact Anne. Feel free to contact any of the officers regarding section business.