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

NEWS RELEASE ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 54(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 55 years. The Journal of Wildlife Diseases (JWD) issue 54(1) has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

Following an oil spill in the marine environment, chemical dispersants, which increase oil droplet formation and distribution into the water column, are assumed to provide a net benefit to seabirds by reducing the risk of exposure to oil on the water surface. **Emily Witmer** and her colleagues from **University of California, Davis** evaluated effects of known concentrations of dispersant and crude oil in artificial seawater in **An Experimental Study of the Effects of Chemically Dispersed Oil on Feather Structure and Waterproofing in Common Murres (*Uria aalge*)**. They found that acute, external effects of oil and dispersed oil were very similar and dose-dependent. Also that a zero-risk assumption should not be used when seabirds are present within the dispersant application zone.

In **Epidemiology of Schmallenberg Virus in European Bison (*Bison bonasus*) in Poland** a group of researchers led by **Julia Kęsik-Maliszewska** investigated this emerging European arbovirus that is an important pathogen in domestic ruminants, but not well studied in free-ranging wild ruminants. They tested 347 serum samples from 302 bison collected at 12 different sites in Poland between 2011 and 2016. Positive animals were first detected in 2012 and seroprevalence peaked at 81% by 2014. In addition they tested biting midges (*Culicoides* spp.), the primary SB virus vector, in the Białowieża Forest region, which contains the world's largest European bison population. SBV was detected in 3% of *Culicoides* pools from 2015.

In North America, rabies control has been achieved in small wild carnivores in many locations using oral rabies vaccination programs. Rabies control in striped skunks has been more difficult and has required enhancements to existing baits, attractants, or novel bait designs. In the latest in a series of ongoing studies **Amy Gilbert** and co-authors from **USDA-APHIS** and **Artemis Technologies** look at **Flavor Preference and Efficacy of Variable Dose Ontario Rabies Vaccine Bait (ONRAB) Delivery in Striped Skunks (*Mephitis mephitis*)**.

Who knew the sex lives of wildlife were so interesting? Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) can be important drivers of population dynamics because of their negative effects on reproduction, but screening for STDs in wildlife populations is widely neglected. Working with badgers, a promiscuous and polygynandrous species, **Alice Kent** and co-authors showed that **Genital Tract Screening Finds Widespread Infection with Mustelid Gammaherpesvirus 1 in the European Badger (*Meles meles*)**.

Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 54(1) are available at:

<http://www.wildlifedisease.org/wda/PUBLICATIONS/JournalofWildlifeDiseases/OnlineJournal.aspx>

If you are interested in getting access to the full article, please contact wda.manager@gmail.com

