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

NEWS RELEASE ON ARTICLES FROM JOURNAL OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 53(4)

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 53(4) has several articles with particular conservation and wildlife management significance that we would like to make you aware of.

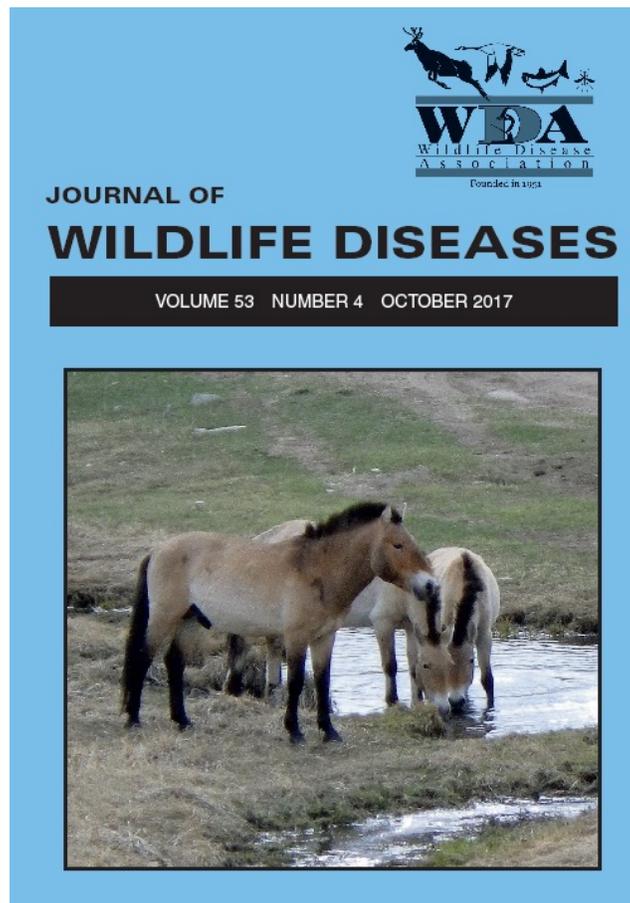
Munkhbat Tarav and colleagues from **Japan** and **Mongolia** report on **Problems in the Protection of Reintroduced Przewalski's Horses (*Equus ferus przewalskii*) Caused by Piroplasmosis**. They looked at potential causes of mortality in populations of this endangered species (called takhi in Mongolia) reintroduced to Hustai National Park. Park records indicated piroplasmosis as a cause of 19% of mortalities in young takhi. In 2014 the prevalence of the piroplasm *Theileria equi* was high at 80% among nomadic horses, and 84% among takhi, but no evidence of *Babesia caballi* infection was found in takhi. Diseases appear to be an important consideration when reintroducing the takhi into the wild. Continuous monitoring and vector control programs could assist future conservation efforts.

Ronald Lindblom and co-authors, in **Influence of Snowfall on Blood Lead Levels of Free-Flying Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) in the Upper Mississippi River Valley**, showed that blood lead levels were higher immediately following the hunting season, and they were lower when the previous month's snowfall was greater than 11 cm. exposure to lead. Combining these and other findings, they offer a narrative of the annual lead exposure cycle of Upper Mississippi River Valley Bald Eagles.

A team of wildlife health researchers from **Indonesia** and **Cornell University, USA**, led by **Kurnia Oktavia**, did **Surveillance for Hemorrhagic Septicemia in Buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) as an Aid to Range Expansion of the Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia**. Invasion of water buffalo into the park carries a substantial health risk of hemorrhagic septicemia to the Javan rhinoceros, and threatens plans to establish a new population outside of its only current range in the park. Husbandry practices associated with higher seroprevalence in buffalo were identified. Understanding hemorrhagic septicemia disease dynamics in the buffalo adjacent to the park may improve the livelihoods of people and health of endangered rhinoceroses in this ecosystem.

The interconnectedness of nature is produces surprises. In September of 2015 a red tide (*Karenia brevis*) bloom producing brevetoxin impacted coastal areas of Padre Island causing marine animal mortalities. A rainstorm with high winds, rough surf, and high tides, occurred on the morning of the mortality event. **In Green Tree Frog (*Hyla cinerea*) and Ground Squirrel (*Xerospermophilus spilosoma*) Mortality Attributed to Inland Brevetoxin Transportation at Padre Island National Seashore, Texas, 2015** a team of scientists from **Texas, Florida** and the **USGS-NWHC**, led by **Danielle Buttke** provide the evidence of inland toxin transport, possibly through aerosols, rainfall, or insects and associated mortality of green tree frog and ground squirrels. This phenomenon has not previously been reported.

In the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA) of Tanzania there is intense wildlife and livestock interaction and greater potential for intra- and interspecies disease transmission. Apparently healthy African buffalo residing on the valley floor of the crater in the NCA were randomly selected from herds in nine sites. **In Screening for Bovine Tuberculosis in African Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer*), Bugwesa Katala of Tanzania Wildlife Research Institute** and a human health and veterinary team from Tanzania, report that 2% of 102 animals screened by ELISA were positive. This work provides information on risk of cross-species transmission and human exposure to bTB.



Abstracts of these and other articles in JWD 53(4) are available at:

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

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