

STUDENT CHAPTER PROGRESS REPORT



Chapter Name: Atlantic Veterinary College Student Chapter of the WDA
Established in (if known): 2016

Faculty Advisor

Name: Dr. Jonathan Spears
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President:

Name: Tara Tischio
Email: ttischio@upei.ca

Vice President

Name: Melanie Stuart
Email address: mstuart@upei.ca

Other Officers

Incl. position, name and email address

Secretary: Maia Courtenay
Email: mcourtenay@upei.ca

Treasurer: Ashley Weir
Email: aweir@upei.ca

Number of chapter members: 24

Number of chapter members that are WDA members: Unknown (details to follow in September)

Please list and describe in detail the activities of this student chapter over the past year. Photos are welcomed and encouraged. Include specifically how this chapter worked towards the WDA Student Chapter objectives:

- 1. Educate students about career opportunities, job qualifications and education, externships, volunteer, and research opportunities in wildlife health fields.*
- 2. Enhance skills of students through lectures, workshops, conferences, field trips.*
- 3. Connect students to mentors in WDA and wildlife health professions through the faculty advisor and guest lecturers.*

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Catharina Vendl (Catharinavendl@gmail.com), before April 30th 2017. If possible, please also attach a group shot of the chapter officers to be added to the website.

- Open House: organized and ran an exotics meet-and-greet room during the school's annual Open House event, attended by over 2000 guests. Also handed out pamphlets and provided public education and outreach on wildlife rescue and rehabilitation. Topics included what to do if you find injured or orphaned wildlife, how to distinguish between a baby animal that needs help and one that should be left alone, and some of the responsibilities of the wildlife service at AVC.
- Held several lunch lectures, including one on white nose syndrome in bats, one on techniques in wildlife medicine, one on oiled bird medicine, and one on whale hunting from a

veterinarian's perspective. Duties included bringing in guest speakers or coordinating with school clinicians, and advertising the event to ensure good attendance. Lectures focused on topics not typically covered in the course load, and to which students with an interest in wildlife don't have access in other ways.

- Ran several wet labs, including one on turtle shell repair and blood draws, one on oiled bird treatments, one on advanced avian medical techniques, and two on rodent topics (necropsy, and microsurgery/sterilization). Duties included organizing the labs and clinicians who would run them (both visiting and in-house clinicians), obtaining supplies, selecting students if participation spots were limited, and ensuring equal opportunity to learn and participate for all involved. Participants were able to practice skills they would never get to try otherwise, and learned basic wildlife medicine.
- Organized two field trips:
 - Moncton Zoo and the Atlantic Wildlife Institute: participants got a behind-the-scenes tour of the Moncton Zoo with the head zookeeper and learned about husbandry and basic zoo medicine, and got a first glimpse of life as a zoo vet. At the AWI, they got a behind-the-scenes tour from owners and head rehabbers Pam and Barry, and learned about various wildlife rehab techniques. Many participants had never seen a wildlife rehab centre before, and had no experience with rehabilitating wild animals. This field trip provided the first glimpse of it and sparked an interest in pursuing a summer job or a career in the field for many.
 - Island Falconry Services: participants got a tour of the facility with owner Jamie Stride, and were able to watch him fly several raptors. This provided exposure to an unusual reason for keeping raptors. Jamie also discussed basic husbandry and care for his raptors, and detailed his role in raptor rehabilitation in collaboration with the wildlife service at the AVC.