



Student Chapter Progress Report – Guidelines

Complete this form and email to the Student Representative on Council, Catharina Vendl (Catharinavendl@gmail.com), before April 30th 2018. This report will be made available on the WDA website, thus it is also your chapter's business card.

For the first time, we will have a drawing of cash prizes for Progress Reports!

To be entered in the drawing for cash prizes (3 x \$100 prizes will be given out):

- 1) Send your report in on time: deadline April 30th 2018
- 2) Complete your report according to the guidelines below
- 3) Make sure to list the current officers and their details in this report.
- 4) If possible, please attach a group shot of the current chapter officers for 2018 to be added to the website.
- 5) Be aware that the quality of your report will be considered as one of the criteria for the student chapter grant.



Student Chapter Progress Report



Chapter Name: University of Saskatchewan Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter

Established in (if known): 2014

Mission: The University of Saskatchewan Wildlife Disease Association Student Chapter works to expose students from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine to opportunities in wildlife health, disease, and medicine through the use of panel discussions, workshops, and seminars with specialists in the field. In addition, we work to give students opportunities to experience the outdoors through various group outdoor excursions such as camping, hiking, skiing, snowshoeing, and dogsledding.

Number of chapter members: 61



Number of chapter members that are WDA members: 18

Faculty Advisor

Name: Todd Shury

Position: Parks Canada Wildlife Health Specialist

Email: todd.shury@pc.gc.ca

Current board members

President:

Name: Cassy Andrew

Email: cassy.andrew@usask.ca

Co- Vice Presidents

Name: Christina Meschkat; Email: cam010@mail.usask.ca

Name: Alice Liboiron; Email: all996@mail.usask.ca

Other Officers (e.g. treasurer, secretary etc.)

Secretary

Name: Nicola Schaefer; Email: nks333@mail.usask.ca

Treasurers (Senior, Junior)

Name: Mandy Wong; Email: maw282@mail.usask.ca

Name: Kira Crooks; Email: kmc043@mail.usask.ca

Workshops/Seminars

Name: Paige Borrett; Email: peb123@mail.usask.ca

Name: Melanie Fetterly; Email: mkf607@mail.usask.ca

Public Relations

Name: Claire Janse van Rensberg; Email: clj443@mail.usask.ca



Fundraising

Name: Keaton Schmidt; Email: kjs490@mail.usask.ca

Name: Courtney Orsen; Email: cmo513@mail.usask.ca

Name: Alyssa Walthers; Email: arw288@mail.usask.ca

Social

Name: Tessa Maysenholder; Email: t1m373@mail.usask.ca

Name: Bhavesh Tailor; Email: bht621@mail.usask.ca

Name: Madison Logan; Email: mel610@mail.usask.ca

How frequently does your chapter hold elections?

Annually

Board members 2018-2019

President:

Name: Christina Meschkat

Email: cam010@mail.usask.ca

Co-Vice Presidents

Name: Robin Owsiacki; Email: rho759@mail.usask.ca

Name: Caleigh Gerow; Email: cmg252@mail.usask.ca

Other Officers

Secretary

Name: Nicola Schaefer; Email: nks333@mail.usask.ca

Treasurers (Senior, Junior)

Name: Kira Crooks; Email: kmc043@mail.usask.ca

Name: Erin Carlson; Email: enc325@mail.usask.ca

Workshops/Seminars

Name: Melanie Fetterly; Email: mkf607@mail.usask.ca

Name: Julia Domke; Email: jld541@mail.usask.ca



Fundraising

Name: Courtney Orsen; Email: cmo513@mail.usask.ca

Name: Madison Logan; Email: mel610@mail.usask.ca

Social

Name: Tessa Maysenholder; Email: tlm373@mail.usask.ca

Name: Alyssa Walthers; Email: arw288@mail.usask.ca

Name: Bhavesh Tailor; Email: bht621@mail.usask.ca

Name: Madison Logan; Email: mel610@mail.usask.ca

Description of Chapter Activities

PR & Fundraising

PR:

Online presence:

- Chapter website (if applicable): NA
- Chapter Facebook page (if applicable):
[https://www.facebook.com/search/str/wildlife+disease+association+club+\(u+of+s+student+chapter\)/keywords_search](https://www.facebook.com/search/str/wildlife+disease+association+club+(u+of+s+student+chapter)/keywords_search)
- Other chapter online or social media presence (i.e. youtube, twitter): NA
- Does your chapter have a newsletter? No

Member recruitment & Club outreach (How does your chapter announce and advertises your events?):

We use both our Facebook page and our college wide email listserv to advertise our events.

Collaboration:

We have collaborated with the Western College of Veterinary Medicine's Production Animal Club and Wildlife and Exotic Animal Medicine Society for various talks and workshops. In addition, we worked with the WCVM Veterinary Parasitology and Pathology Departments to offer necropsy opportunities in conjunction with current research in the departments. We try to share and encourage attendance events and talks offered by various other related organizations such as: the WCVM Department of Veterinary Pathology, the University of Saskatchewan 'WildEcol Seminar Series', SeaDoc Society, 'Toxicology on Tap', and more!



WDA-representation:

At meetings and AGMs, we described what WDA mission is and how to become a member. We also offered potentials to work together to travel to the WDA conference and had a nomination for a \$100 grant for one student to travel to the annual WDA conference and present a poster.

Fundraising:

Our annual membership fee is \$5. We host an annual 'Wild Karaoke Night' fundraiser for which we charge \$10 admission. This past year we received funding from the WDA student chapter grant. We are currently in the process of coordinating receiving annual funding from the Wildlife Health Fund. We also seek grants from external supporters to offer our dogsledding trip – most years we receive funding from the Sask Outdoors.



EVENTS

- Salmon health/disease documentary viewing and discussion
- Networking/case nights with professors x2
- Coyote Necropsies with Dr. Jenkins' lab (*Echinococcus* research)
- Talk by Dr. Dallas New - "Helicopters and Hazmat Suits - The Unfolding Story of Anthrax in Northern Canada"
- Talk by Dr. Karen Machin - "Avian Analgesia"
- Avian necropsies with WCVI Zoo/Exotics/Wildlife Interns
- Camping in Grasslands National Park
- Snow hiking
- Dog sledding
- Saw whet owl banding
- Cross-country skiing





(Bi)Annual events (if applicable):

Dogsledding

Our annual dogsledding trip with Sundogs Excursions in Waskesiu (northern Saskatchewan) took place on January 21, 2018. 12 WDA members had the opportunity to attend and enjoy a day of dogsledding and wildlife tour. The event was partially funded over the last three years by Sask Outdoors, a local outdoors organization, and our grant from the WDA also helped subsidize the cost to participants. The excursion was led by a biologist, dog sled expert, and long-time resident of the area. The day began with an orientation with tour operators regarding safety with dogs and wildlife. Then students went on both a snowshoe tour with vegetation identification and bird watching and a dog sled trip out into the forest where they get to experience the thrill of riding with dogs as well as be in and learn about the surrounding ecosystem. Having the opportunity to get outside, learn about ecosystems, and see wildlife is a highlight for many club members. In addition, this trip increases club membership significantly and those students plan to carry on with the club in future years.





Northern saw-
Banding



whet Owl

For the past two years, our club has participated in two evenings of Northern saw-whet owl banding with a longtime local bander. Students have the chance to learn about the process and purpose of banding, learn about saw-whet owl biology, and practice their bird-handling skills. This year, this event took place on October 13th and 14th 2017, and 24 members participated.



Weekly or monthly events (if applicable): NA

