



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF WILDLIFE VETERINARIANS

Quarterly Newsletter of the AAWV

Summer 2001

Wildlife in Washington

By Dean Goeldner
AVMA Governmental Relations

Keeping in mind that the federal legislative and regulatory processes are always works in progress and never seem to be really finished, here is a snapshot view of some of the wildlife issues that were in play in Washington in late June:

Appropriations

The Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 2217) was passed by the House of Representatives on June 21st. The House version of the bill differs from the president's budget request in several ways. It removes language requested by the administration to make it more difficult for citizens to petition or sue the government regarding additions to the endangered species list. It also rejects the president's request for \$2 million for studies of possible oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. When the Senate Appropriations Committee marked up this legislation on June 28th, they too omitted the administration's requests on these two issues. With regard to wildlife related funding, the House elected to continue the conservation initiative funding begun in the FY 2001 appropriations cycle, commonly referred to as "CARA-Lite" (see CARA below). \$100 million is included for state wildlife grants. The Senate markup con-

tains a similar figure. Endangered species funding in both versions appears to match or exceed FY01 levels and is generally above the administration requests. The same is true with biological research and monitoring in the U.S. Geological Survey budget. The House included \$5 million for neotropical migratory bird conservation that is not in the Senate bill. In the Agriculture Appropriations bill (H.R. 2330), overall spending for conservation programs appears to be increased for FY 2002, but no funding has been requested to continue the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP). Language is also pending to encourage cooperation between USDA and Interior on implementing a brucellosis vaccination program for bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area.

International Assistance

Three bills reauthorizing financial assistance for international wildlife have passed the House and moved on to the Senate. On June 12th, H.R. 643, the African Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001, and H.R. 700, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001, were approved. On June 25th, H.R. 645, the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 also passed. These bills authorize up to \$5 million annually for African elephants, \$5 million annually for Asian elephants, and \$10 million annually for rhinos and tigers through 2007. The measures

also cap administrative expenses at \$80,000 or 3%, whichever is larger, and set up public/private advisory panels to assist the Fish and Wildlife Service in overseeing these projects. In the appropriations process, funding for these species, as well as those covered in the Great Ape Conservation Act passed last year, is combined in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund. For FY 2002, both the House and the Senate are recommending \$4 million for that fund: \$1 million each for African elephants, Asian elephants, rhinos and tigers combined, and the great apes.

CARA Resurfaces

H.R. 701, the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, has once again been introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK). The legislation would dedicate as much as \$3 billion annually outside the appropriations process, for a variety of projects including the Land and Water Conservation Fund (\$ 900 million), coastal states

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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

by Terry Kreeger

Election Results

The votes are in, counted, and recounted. The chads have been picked up and glued back into place (or at least where we thought they went), and the lawyers have left in disgust at having no one to sue.

I have been re-elected as President; Julie Langenberg was elected as Vice President; Kirsten Gilardi was voted Secretary; and Walt Cook was elected Treasurer. We will all serve for the next two years.

As gratifying as the election outcome was (it would have been a bit upsetting to have lost, since I ran unopposed), I do feel somewhat like George Dubya Bush. That is, I was elected president with less than a majority vote. In fact, it was so much less than a majority, I'm not sure it even qualifies as a minority vote!

Only 32 votes were cast - from a membership of more than 400! From now on, I will be known as "Landslide Kreeger."

People, people, people - this is YOUR association. The AAWV will live or die only by the participation of its members. I'm sure there were many reasons for not voting, such as officers running unopposed; not wanting to cut-up the newsletter for the ballot; the copy machine was broke so you couldn't copy the ballot; or the cat chewed all your stamps so you couldn't mail the ballot.

Nonetheless, I appeal to all of you for the next election. Please take a paltry two or three minutes to vote. The next ballot will be designed so its removal won't destroy the newsletter and it will be self-addressed so all you have to do is slap a stamp on it (assuming, of course, that the cat hasn't gotten to the stamps first).

I believe that the AAWV has made good progress over the last few years. The number of newer members who have volunteered to run for office or committee chairs, edit the newsletter, or operate the

web site have been very welcome. The future of this association and any impact it may hope to have is vested in these young lions, but an association is not just a handful of officers.

I know that voting sometimes seems like a waste of time (witness the recent U.S. presidential election). But if nothing else, your vote tells the officers that you are interested in the association and we need to work for you. Without even this modicum of support, we are left wondering, "why bother?" Please, tell us that you are out there and that you care. A simple vote is reason enough for us to keep trying to make this association work.

AAWV Meeting

The AAWV will be meeting in conjunction with the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians' (AAZV) annual meeting in Orlando, Florida on September 18-23, 2001. The AAWV will be presenting workshops entitled "So You Want to Be a Wildlife Veterinarian" and "Wildlife Disease Investigations," both presented on September 19. A joint AAWV/AAZV scientific session on animal anesthesia and a National Association of Zoo and Wildlife Veterinarians session on ungulates will be held on September 22.

Speaking for the new slate of officers, we will work over the next two years to increase the influence of the AAWV. We are certainly a small association, but we occupy a unique niche in veterinary medicine. I truly believe that we are the only professionals qualified to speak on issues relative to the health management of free-ranging species.

But to be effective at this, we need to know that we have your support. That support can be in the form of e-mail/phone/letter correspondence, attendance at annual meetings, and (you knew this was coming) by VOTING!

Hope everyone has had an enjoyable and productive summer.

AAWV WEBSITE NEWS

As always, there is additional information available both to the general public as well as AAWV members on our website. Information pertaining to officers, the advisory council, the objectives of our organization and general information regarding membership, upcoming meetings and employment opportunities are available to all interested viewers. In the "Members Only" section of the site, the latest editions of the *AAWV Newsletter*, longer articles (that could not fit in the Newsletter) and the organization's documents are available for viewing.

Because this issue of the Newsletter is only being sent to those subscribing to AAWV for 2001, we are altering the username and password for access to the Members section of the website. Beginning this month (August), the new username and password is:

Username: AAWV

Password: wildlife

IMPORTANT!!!

Both username and password are case sensitive (use the exact upper/lower case)

Please visit our site to keep up on AAWV activities and encourage other wildlife veterinary professionals, who are not members, to visit (and to join our organization!).

<http://www.aawv.net>

A Veterinary System in Transition: Wildlife Health in Mongolia

By Amanda Fine

Edited by Sharon Deem

Mongolia's 2.3 million people and over 30 million head of livestock share their grasslands, mountain steppe and Gobi desert with a range of wildlife species including the wild ass and camel, snow leopard, Gobi bear and white- and black-tailed gazelle.

I am the staff veterinarian for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded ACDI/VOCA "Farmer to Farmer" project in Mongolia. The project is dedicated to work in the agricultural field and agriculture in Mongolia means livestock. Much of our work within the animal health field has been focused on training and building the capacity of rural veterinarians and the associations that support them.

Like so many of Mongolia's social services, the veterinary system is undergoing a transition from a state subsidized and government controlled system of animal health care delivery to a private fee for service system. Before Mongolia's peaceful transition to a democratic government in 1990 the country had been a satellite of the former Soviet Union. The agricultural sector and veterinary services in particular were very much supported by funds from the former U.S.S.R. In the former "communal farm" system the livestock were the property of the state and government-supported veterinarians provided for the health care needs of the livestock.

Mongolian veterinarians currently operating in the rural areas are struggling to provide for the health care needs of Mongolia's livestock. They are challenged by a lack of equipment and supply networks, a population of livestock herders that are not accustomed to paying for veterinary services, and a deteriorating state system of diagnostic laboratories and disease surveillance activities.

It is hard to assess the impact of the transition of the veterinary system in Mongolia on the health of its livestock and wildlife species. Disease surveillance records are often incomplete and difficult to interpret, however, a recent outbreak of Food and Mouth Disease in Mongolia has raised concerns about the effects of the changes in the animal health care delivery policy on the disease status of Mongolia's livestock. And in the case of Foot and Mouth Disease especially, the health status of Mongolia's wildlife populations.

Wildlife health concerns fall under the responsibilities of the Mongolian Ministry of Nature and the Environment. However, rural veterinarians play a role in wildlife health. It is they that are called upon to examine the carcasses of wildlife species that have died of unknown causes and the state veterinary laboratory system that is responsible for diagnostic workups. By training Mongolian veterinarians in basic diagnostic skills and working to strengthen the veterinary system in Mongolia there is potential to improve wildlife health and disease surveillance as well.

The recent Foot and Mouth disease outbreak in Mongolia has raised the awareness of the potential for transmission of disease between wildlife and livestock populations. Mongolian veterinarians are realizing that health considerations in an open grazing system must take into account the health of wildlife. Wildlife may play a role in the transmission of disease among livestock, and wildlife may be susceptible to outbreaks of disease in livestock that could be devastating to already endangered wildlife populations.

Other international organizations working within the veterinary sector in Mongolia include the German governmental aid organization (GTZ), the Japanese governmental aid organization (JICA) and other small non-governmental inter-

national organizations including Christian Veterinary Mission and the Brooks Animal Hospital. Organizations and projects involved specifically with wildlife and conservation work include GTZ, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society, The Wilds, The Darwin Initiative and a number of other projects and partnerships funded by national governments and private foundations. The wildlife and conservation organizations are either working with ongoing projects like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) funded Eastern Steppe Biodiversity Project and the Hustan Nuruu project to reintroduce the Takhi horses or with Mongolian National Universities and the Mongolian Academy of Sciences.

In a country as "small" as Mongolia it has been possible to remain abreast of developments in veterinary medicine in both the wildlife and domestic livestock sector. In a country with limited resources and limited international aid it is important to make sure that any assistance within the veterinary sector has as large an impact as possible. The advantage of Mongolia's size is that strengthening of its veterinary system, whether from a wildlife or livestock angle, should have an impact on both. Mongolia must also recognize that the strengthening of its veterinary sector will not only improve the health of its livestock and services provided to herders but that it will also improve its ability to respond to wildlife health and conservation concerns. The recent Foot and Mouth outbreaks in Mongolia and around the world have only strengthened the notion that there are no boundaries when it comes to disease and the outbreaks emphasize the need to consider both wildlife and domestic livestock when focusing on projects designed to improve veterinary services.

Salmon Anemia Virus

Date: April 2001

Source: USFWS Press Release [edited]

A screening blood test on a wild Penobscot River Atlantic salmon has revealed a suspected case of a potentially fatal virus according to the USFWS Northeast Acting Regional Director Dr. Mamie A. Parker. Service fishery biologists have moved the single fish to a separate pool and are initiating a 28-day cell-culture test to determine if infectious salmon anemia virus is actually present. The fish was returning from the ocean when Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission fishery biologists removed it from the river for use as broodstock at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in East Orland, according to Parker. Forty-two of the 85 wild salmon removed from the Penobscot River this year have undergone the same blood test. However, this is the only suspect blood test to date. The screening is preliminary and has been known to produce false results for ISA, Parker said, however. The 28-day cell-culture test is the best available science for confirming the presence of ISA, she said. ISA is a potential threat to Atlantic salmon recovery and restoration programs and was one of the reasons for Endangered Species Act protection of the Maine distinct population segment of wild Atlantic salmon. For three years, fishery biologists have been monitoring fish for ISA from the eight rivers where fish are endangered using the more accurate cell-culture test. While wild Atlantic salmon in the main stem of the Penobscot River are not protected as endangered, fish in one of the river's tributaries - Cove Brook - are endangered. ISA was confirmed in March 2001 in commercial sea-pen facilities in Maine. The disease can cause death in Atlantic salmon in salt water, but fishery biologists do not know what effect the disease will have on fish in fresh water. Procedures for dealing with the disease can include stock destruction, quarantine, broodstock management and monitoring when it is detected at a national fish hatchery.

Anthrax in Canada

Date: Thursday 5 July 2001

Source: Edmonton Journal [edited]

Anthrax is stalking the bison of Wood Buffalo National Park for the second year in a row. Helicopter surveys have so far turned up 19 carcasses of bison that succumbed to the anthrax bacteria, said Mike Keizer, the park's client and heritage services manager. Tests performed on samples from four of the massive animals came back positive Wednesday afternoon. Last year, outbreaks in three separate areas of the park culled 103 of the threatened species from the herd. "I'm hoping, as we all are, that this will be a small outbreak," Keizer said. Aside from last year, outbreaks occurred in 1991, 1987, in the late 1970s and regularly in the 1960s. Biologists aren't quite sure why epidemics are triggered only in certain years, Keizer said. One theory is periods of heavy rainfall swell the spores, lift them up from the soil and carry them to low-lying areas. If this is followed by hot, dry weather the bison wallow and roll in the low-lying areas to cool off and discourage pesky insects. This stirs up the spores, which they breathe in. Within a day of contracting the disease a bison can be found standing splay-legged and listless. "You could almost land a helicopter beside it and it wouldn't run away," Keizer said. In less than three days, the animal is dead. In the 1970s, biologists tried to inoculate the animals with an anthrax vaccine, said Hal Reynolds, a Canadian Wildlife Service biologist and a member of the Wood Bison Recovery program. But the vaccine is only effective for six months and the peak period for anthrax epidemics is July and August. When vaccinations were attempted in the spring, the result was calves separated from cows and a lot of stressed-out animals, said Reynolds. It seemed better to risk an outbreak. "There's really nothing you can do to manage anthrax."

From: Jonah Mitchell, Senior Park Warden
Wood Buffalo National Park

Here is the latest update as of 17 Jul 2001: Total dead: 58 bison and 1 moose; Sex ratio of bison mortalities: 33 bulls and 23 cows out of a population estimated at 300-400 in the Delta. Last year we had 48 mortalities in this area. We are running in 2-week operational periods. The focus of this period was to get a monitoring strategy up and running. We are currently working with a rotary wing survey of the outbreak area every 3 days and a fixed wing survey of high bison density areas every 6 days. We are hoping to test some carcass treatment options in the next operational period. We would like to do some soil sampling around some fresh carcasses and then try a range of carcass treatment options, followed by another round of soil samples. It is unlikely that we will be able to treat enough carcasses to have a statistically significant sample size, but the information gained will help ourselves determine effective and efficient carcass treatment in isolated back-country areas. Treatment options being considered include chemical treatments, burning and combinations of chemical treatment and burning. Two hurdles to this carcass testing are an environmental assessment for formaldehyde use and securing fuel and equipment for burning. I should note that we are only looking at testing carcass treatment options on a few carcasses. At this time, we are not considering full carcass treatment of all carcasses.



CWD in Canada

Date: Wed 27 June 2001

Source: *Canoe.ca* [edited]

A second case of CWD in a wild deer has been confirmed in Saskatchewan, the province announced. The disease was found in the brain tissue of a 4-year-old mule buck in the Manito Sandhills region south of Lloydminster. It was one of 213 samples taken last month in the area. The second animal was found within 3 kilometres from the first positive case, a 2-year-old deer mule shot during last fall's hunting season. Both positive cases come from within 100 kilometres of a game farm which has been called the source of the disease among game-farmed elk in the province. However, it's only the second case out of 1418 animals sampled over the last 3 years, so the occurrence of the disease in the wild is quite small, says Saskatchewan Environment and Resource Management. The government will keep sampling animals in the area to determine the extent and prevalence of the disease. Chronic wasting disease has also been confirmed in 25 elk herds across the province. A similar program in Alberta running along the Saskatchewan boundary has found no positive tests in 241 animals.

Date: 21 Jul 2001

Source: *The Western Producer* [edited]

Domestic elk continue to be slaughtered in Saskatchewan as federal officials continue the attempted cleanup of chronic wasting disease (CWD). Animals from 5 more herds will be killed after veterinarians from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) discovered some herd members were infected. That raises the number of infected herds from 24 to 29. More than 4600 game farm elk have been killed since March 2000. Most of those animals have not been infected with the disease. The whole-herd killoffs are an attempt to stamp out the disease. The recent batch of infected herds were discovered as CFIA vets traced animals having left infected herds for other herds. "Some are traceouts of traceouts of traceouts," said CFIA official Brian Peart.

Missouri elk restoration

Date: July 11, 2001

Source: *Environmental News Network* [edited]

The Missouri Conservation Commission voted unanimously at a recent meeting not to restore elk to Missouri in order to safeguard the state's wildlife from CWD. Chronic wasting disease has never been found in Missouri, but state officials are still worried. "An outbreak of chronic wasting disease could cause great harm to the deer herd, so it is imperative we do all we can to prevent its spread into the state," said Conservation Commission Chairman Randy Herzog. "Although small, there is a chance infected elk that show no symptoms of the disease could enter the state through a restoration project. We feel it would be unwise to take that risk." The Missouri Department of Agriculture applauded the Commission decision to halt elk reintroduction. "The Conservation Commission acted responsibly and with appropriate caution," said Agriculture Director Lowell Mohler. "We need to closely scrutinize the importation of all animals into Missouri for disease implications." Missouri Department of Conservation biologists will conduct random testing of deer harvested during the 2001 deer hunting season. The surrounding states of Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee have reintroduced wild elk in recent years, but Ollie Torgerson, head of the Conservation Department's wildlife division, says Missouri will wait and see how their programs go. "We'll be monitoring how other states are handling the importation of animals," said Torgerson. "We have to protect our native white-tailed deer herd, which is a big part of outdoor recreation in Missouri. Bringing in deer or elk from other states could pose an unacceptable risk."

FMD in Deer

Date: 29 Apr 2001

Source: *London Observer* [edited]

The foot and mouth disease (FMD) virus may have passed into Britain's wild deer population, making the Government's policy of mass slaughter of farmyard livestock futile. There have been several cases of vets clinically identifying the disease in wild deer, some of which have died, presumably from it. Veterinary experts say it is impossible to vaccinate or cull wild deer and once infected they will act as a reservoir for the virus, repeatedly re-infecting livestock. It will make it almost impossible for Britain to rid itself of the virus, until it dies out naturally in wild deer, which could take years. Last week a roe deer was found dead at Kirk House Farm near Penrith, which had already been confirmed as having FMD in livestock. Local vet Matt Coulston identified lesions on all 4 feet and in its mouth. "There have been loads of people round here reporting dead deer and sick deer. A MAFF spokesman said government vets had tested 9 deer for FMD and none had been found positive. However, the MAFF vets use the ELISA test, which was developed on cattle and sheep and is not thought to be so effective on deer. In 1974 the government Animal Health Institute in Pirbright kept a number of deer in proximity to sheep with FMD for 2 hours in a controlled experiment. The scientists found all 6 native species of deer contracted the disease, and several died.

Dated: Mon 14 May 2001

From: *Deborah Mackenzie* [edited]

Candida St John asked whether there was any concern that wild deer populations might become involved in spreading or maintaining foot and mouth infection. This does figure in US preparedness plans. Wildlife experts, vets, and virologists in the US have met recently to discuss what should be done regarding deer in case of an outbreak in the US. The current position as I understand it is that there would be automatic culling, but that susceptible populations would be monitored for signs

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of the occurrence or persistence of infection. As a matter of interest, during a 1924 outbreak in California, more than 20,000 mule deer were killed as a precaution in Stanislas National Park. Some 10 percent showed signs of foot and mouth infection, though no lab tests were done to confirm this diagnosis. The US position contrasts with that of the British authorities, who presume that any infection would burn itself out in the wild deer population, despite a 10-fold population increase [in the UK] and a large expansion of their range since the last big outbreak of FMD. The last I heard, a few deer had been tested (and found negative), and one farmed herd of 400 deer of several species in the heavily-infected district of Cumbria has been culled, after four Sika showed signs of foot and mouth (but again, tested negative). There is official concern that the infection could reach wild deer on moorland in the southwest. But, at last report, the Ministry was doing no systematic surveillance for foot and mouth infection in wild deer. The British deer industry (including various alliances of hunting, countryside, and conservation groups) is up in arms and wants systematic testing, as they are sure they have seen deer with signs of the disease. The big question is whether any infection would in fact burn out, or whether it might spread at such a rate as to be able to maintain itself for some time within the population, possibly reinfecting livestock. Epidemiologists I have asked say, of course, that we can't tell without data. But it seems that systematic data on infection in deer will not be forthcoming from the British outbreak.

WNV Update

Date: 27 Jul 2001
Source: ProMED

So far in 2001, according to the ArboNET surveillance group report contained in the most recent MMWR Report, 142 West Nile virus-positive birds have been reported now from the District of Columbia (1 bird) and 34 counties in 9 states - Connecticut (4), Florida (21), Georgia (2), Maryland (51), Massachusetts (6), New Jersey (37), New York (16),

Rhode Island (3), and Virginia (1). West Nile virus has also been detected now in 38 mosquito pools collected in 10 counties in 4 states (Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and New York - including New York City), representing at least 9 species. One suspected human case and 3 equine cases have been reported from the state of Florida.

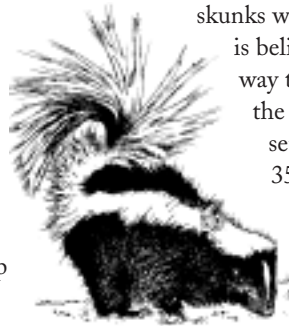
Skunk Rabies in AZ

Date: 23 May 2001
Source: AZCentral.com [edited]

Health workers in Flagstaff, Arizona will spend the next 6 weeks trapping, vaccinating, and releasing skunks in an effort to stop a rabies epidemic in the area.

In Flagstaff, trapping and injecting skunks with a rabies vaccine is believed to be the only way to rid the area of the disease. Workers are setting 400 traps in a 35 mile radius around Flagstaff. Since late January, authorities have found 17 rabid skunks in the Flagstaff area, compared with 17

confirmed cases of rabid skunks [throughout] Arizona last year. Dr. Mira Leslie, a veterinarian with the Arizona Department of Health Services, said [that] 15 of the rabid skunks in Flagstaff were found in one neighborhood, the Foxglenn development. This is the first time rabid skunks have ever been documented in northern Arizona, Leslie said. "It's a pretty intense outbreak," she said. "And it's epidemic in southern as well as northern Arizona." In southern Arizona, 29 rabid skunks have been found so far. The disease is believed to have spread to the north when a skunk was bitten by a rabid bat. Leslie said 65 rabid animals have been found statewide this year, compared with 22 for the same time last year. She expects the numbers to grow if left unchecked. "There are more rabies cases this year, from January to May, than for any other documented period," Leslie said. "Usually this is a slow time, and we're seeing 3 or 4 cases daily."



(WILDLIFE, continued from front page)

impact assistance (\$1 billion), wildlife restoration (\$350 million) and endangered species recovery (\$50 million), urban parks (\$125 million), national historic sites (\$160 million), and payments to counties in lieu of taxes (\$350 million). The money would come from outer continental shelf oil and gas revenues. The bill is extremely popular with state and local governments, fish and wildlife agencies and environmental groups, but is opposed by property rights activists, who predict a land grab by the federal government, and some appropriators, who are concerned about the removal of so much money from the annual appropriations process, essentially prioritizing these concerns over others such as education and health care. The bill received a hearing in the House Resources Committee on June 20th, but future action is uncertain. Last year the legislation passed the House but died in the Senate after appropriators scrambled to create more limited funding (CARA-Lite) within the appropriations process.

Grizzly Reintroduction

The Bush administration has moved to withdraw the Clinton administration plan to reintroduce grizzly bears into the Bitterroot Wilderness Area of Idaho and Montana. Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne had sued in January to stop the reintroductions. Interior Secretary Gale Norton announced that the emphasis would instead be on protecting existing bear populations.

Capitol Hill Briefing

Dr. Don Lein of Cornell University led a group from Cornell, the Texas Department of Health and USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)-Wildlife Services in discussing wildlife rabies control through oral vaccination. Programs for raccoons in the Northeast as well as coyotes and gray foxes in Texas were presented. Congress is currently con-

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sidering an increase of \$16.5 million in the APHIS-Wildlife Services budget for oral bait drop programs to control wildlife rabies. On May 22nd, three wildlife veterinarians were featured presenters in a briefing on wildlife disease as symptoms of endangered marine ecosystems and climate change. Dr. David Jessup spoke on marine mammals, especially southern sea otters; Dr. Flo Tseng presented information on marine birds; and Dr. Alonso Aguirre discussed conditions in marine turtles. Finally, on June 12th, Dr. Robert McLean briefed congressional staff on a variety of emerging wildlife diseases and problems, including WNV, foot-and-mouth disease, avian vacuolar myelinopathy, amphibian malformations and diseases, bubonic plague, coot mortality, sea otter mortality, and die-offs at the Salton Sea.

Conservation and Research Center Survives

In early April the Smithsonian Institution announced plans to close the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC) in Front Royal, VA. The CRC has been doing endangered species conservation and reproductive research for 25 years and has trained a large number of scientists and veterinarians. Significant opposition to the proposed closure arose from the international scientific community and on Capitol Hill. Bowing to the pressure, Smithsonian Secretary Lawrence Small announced on May 6th that the CRC would remain open. Instead, a scientific advisory panel will be created to review science at the Smithsonian. Appropriations language is pending in Congress that would preclude closing or relocating the facilities of any Smithsonian scientific program without the recommendation of this advisory panel and approval by the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

JOB AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Public Service Assistant

Where: Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia.

Description: This is a non-tenure track, entry-level faculty position which will provide major support to SCWDS service and research contracts with animal health, public health, wildlife management, and private organizations. Duties will include project design, oversight, performance, and reporting of field investigations of domestic and foreign animal diseases and parasites in wildlife, analyses of potential wildlife involvement in domestic animal and human disease issues, development of protocols for wildlife disease investigations, development and evaluation of strategies to mitigate diseases in wildlife, interpretation of findings, preparation of reports to cooperating agencies and manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and interactions with state, federal, and international agencies. Annual salary will be between \$40,000 and \$45,000 plus staff benefits.

Requirements: PhD degree in wildlife biology or a related field, as well as proven success in obtaining extramural funding and publishing results of scientific studies; extensive field experience; demonstrated leadership, supervision, and training of veterinarians, wildlife biologists, and technicians involved in wildlife disease investigations and emergency animal disease eradication organizations; experience in dealing with multiple governmental regulatory and funding agencies.

Application deadline: August 15, 2001.

For more info: Dr. John R. Fischer, Director, Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, College of Veterinary Medicine, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602-7387.

Wildlife Veterinarian

Where: Makivik Corporation, Nunavik Research Centre, Kuujuaq, Northern Quebec, Canada.

Description: The Centre undertakes research and management projects on species used as country foods by the Inuit of Nunavik, including marine and terrestrial mammals, birds and fish. The veterinarian will lead research on pathogens and bio-toxins that affect animal health and food safety, supervise diagnostic services for Trichinellosis in walrus, and oversee the operations of a small charr hatchery. Preparation of funding proposals, data analysis and reports, tissue inspections and necropsies in the laboratory and field, as well as travel to remote regions are part of the job. Salary from \$40,000-\$50,000, group insurance plan (dental, medical, life), cargo allowance, travel (from Kuujuaq-Montreal) and subsidized housing provided.

Requirements: D.V.M. with M.Sc. in wildlife parasitology, pathology, toxicology, or epidemiology or equivalent work experience; written/oral fluency in English (with fluency in French and/or Inuktitut an asset); ability to work both independently and within a team environment.

Application deadline: August 31, 2001

For more info: Dr. D.W. Doidge, Director Nunavik Research Centre, Makivik Corporation, Box 179, Kuujuaq Quebec J0M 1C0, b_doidge@makivik.org

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Aug 21–25** Association of Avian Veterinarians (Orlando, FL). For more information, contact the AAV conference office at (303) 756-8380 or aavconfoc@aol.com
- Sep 18–23** Joint Conference of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, AAWV and Association of Reptile and Amphibian Veterinarians (Orlando, Florida). Sessions will include reptilian, avian and aquatic animal medicine, environmental activism, clinical pathology, anesthesia, behavior/escapes, megavertebrates, small mammals, nutrition, field project reports, and case reports, and will also include veterinary student paper competitions, poster sessions and workshops/wet labs. For more information, contact Wilbur Amand, 6 North Pennell Road, Media, PA 19063, (610-892-4812 or aazv@aol.com)
- Sep 25–29** 8th Annual Conference of The Wildlife Society (Reno/Tahoe, Nevada). This meeting will include a session on Environmental Contaminants & Wildlife Diseases. For more information, including the preliminary program, go to the TWS website at <http://www.wildlife.org/2001.html>.
- Nov 1–8** USAHA Annual Meeting (Hershey, PA). For more information, contact USAHA at (804) 285-3210 or visit www.usaha.org/meetin01/2001info.
- Nov 28– Dec 3** Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals (Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada). For more information, visit www.smmconference.org or e-mail mmconf@vanaqua.org.

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