

# New York State Cooperative Wildlife Health Program



*brought to you by:*

Cornell Wildlife Health Lab

*a New York State Wildlife Health Program partner*

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## About the WHP

The WHP was established in 2010 as a partnership between NYSDEC and the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine in Ithaca, New York.

We work to detect, manage and prevent serious impacts from diseases and toxins on New York wildlife, domestic animals and people.



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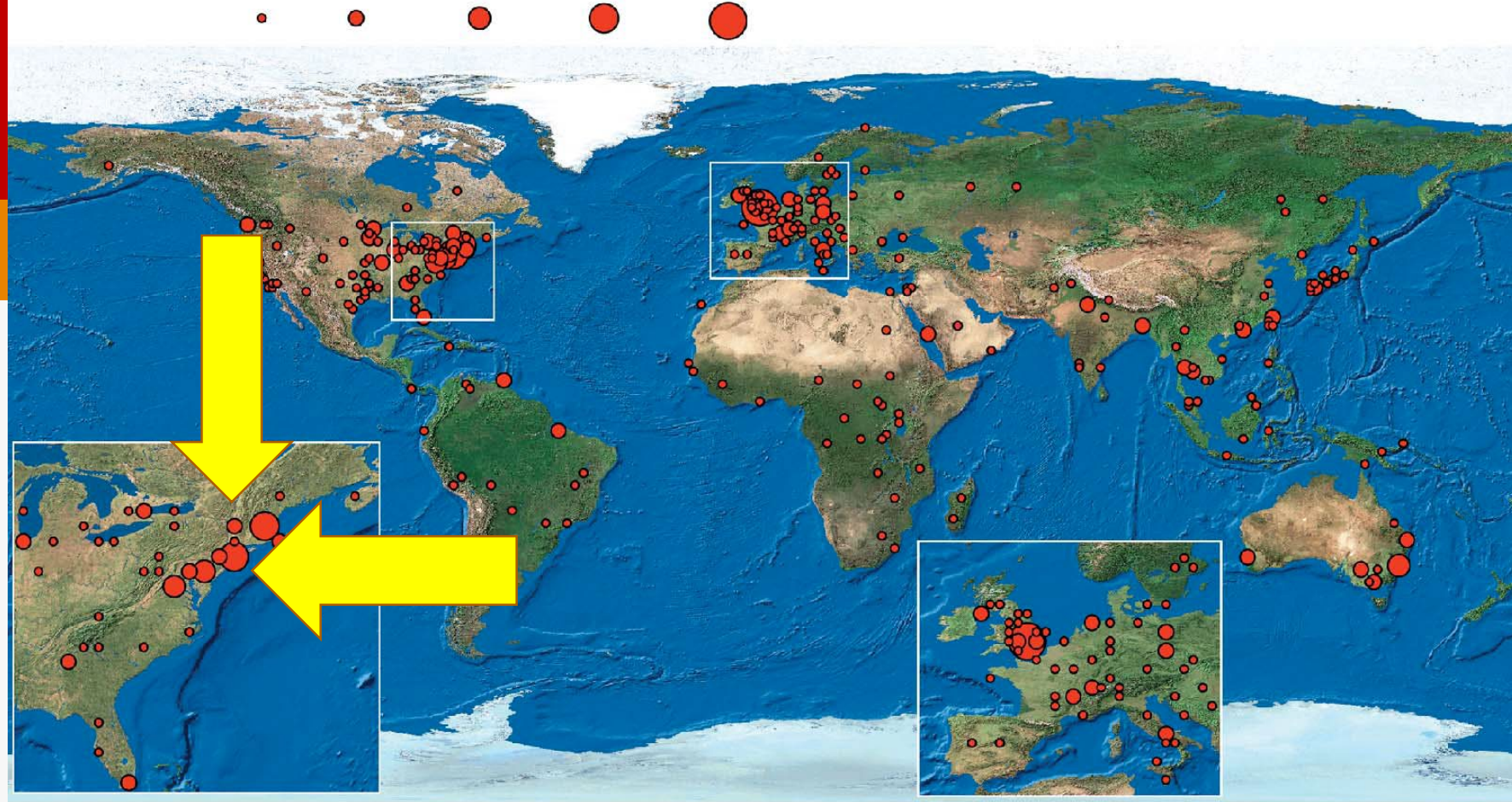
# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Why Wildlife Health?

The Northeast United States is unfortunately a hot spot for emerging diseases.

In the past 20-30 years, NY has dealt with introductions of raccoon rabies, West Nile Virus, White Nose Syndrome and Chronic Wasting Disease.

It is possible for any one of you to encounter a new wildlife disease at any time.



[Global Trends in emerging infectious diseases](#)

Kate E. Jones, Nikkita G. Patel, Marc A. Levy, Adam Storeygard, Deborah Balk, John L. Gittleman & Peter Daszak  
*Nature* **451**, 990-993(21 February 2008)

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Why Wildlife Health?

Some wildlife diseases are problematic for both human and domestic animal health.

Because human diseases can come from wildlife, people may have negative perceptions of wild animals.

Having accurate information about the actual risks and disease transmission will help protect both wildlife and people.

61%

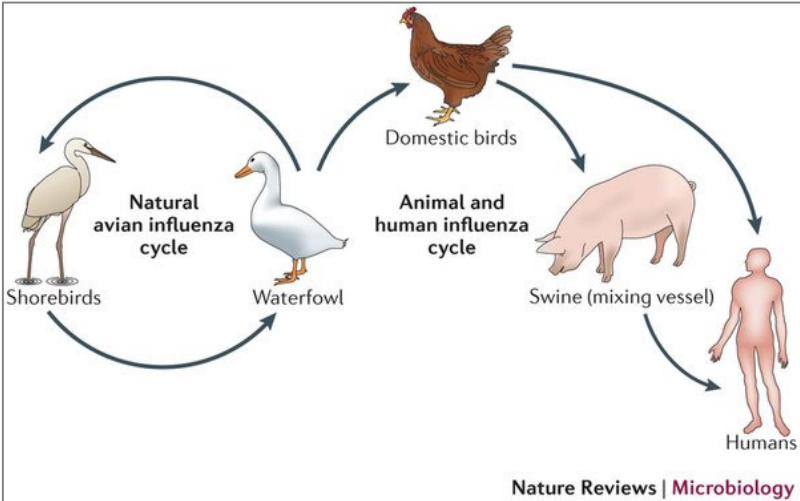
of human diseases are shared with animals

70%

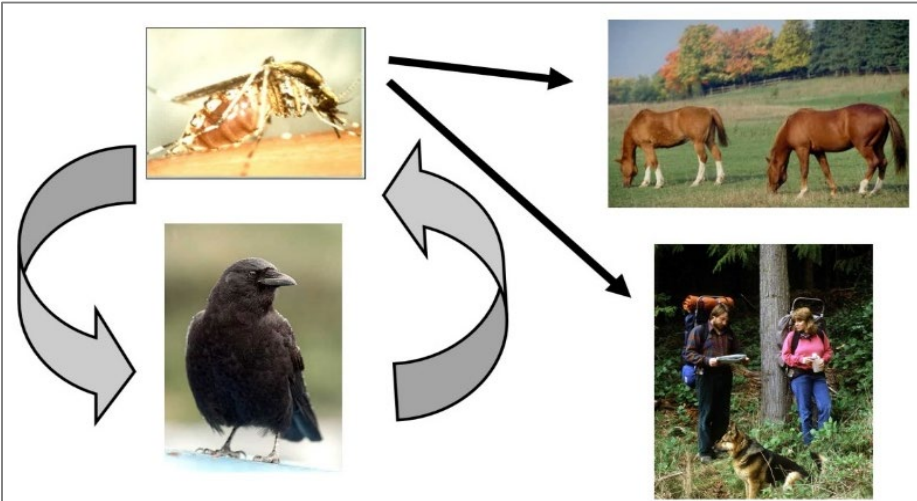
of those originate with wildlife



Rabies



Avian Influenza



West Nile Virus

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Why Wildlife Health?

Some diseases may have serious implications for wildlife species.

**White Nose fungus** has severely reduced little brown bat populations in New York.

In some states with **Chronic Wasting Disease**, deer numbers are declining as infection rates steadily increase.



White Nose Syndrome



Chronic Wasting Disease

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Partnership

Our program promotes the health and long term sustainability of wildlife populations through integration of the fields of wildlife ecology and veterinary medicine.

# Wildlife Biologist



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What Hollywood thinks I do



What I think I do



What I actually do

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

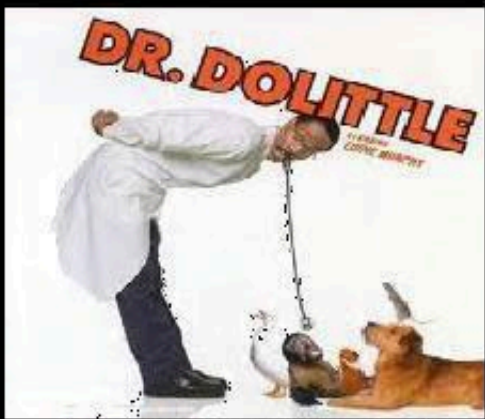
## Partnership

Wildlife biologists and veterinarians have complementary skills that can help us figure out where disease impacts wildlife, and how to manage it.

# VETERINARIAN



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What clients think I can do



What I think I do



What I actually do

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Surveillance

A major part of what we do is examine submitted animals to determine the cause of death. This type of surveillance helps us rapidly detect new diseases as well as understand how to manage what is already here.

Information is regularly shared with our partners in human and domestic animal health.



# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Surveillance

We accept cases from multiple sources to ensure that we cover a wide variety of species and locations; we examine almost 1200 animals a year.

Biologists can submit cases, see case reports, analyze case data, and access disease fact sheets through our website.



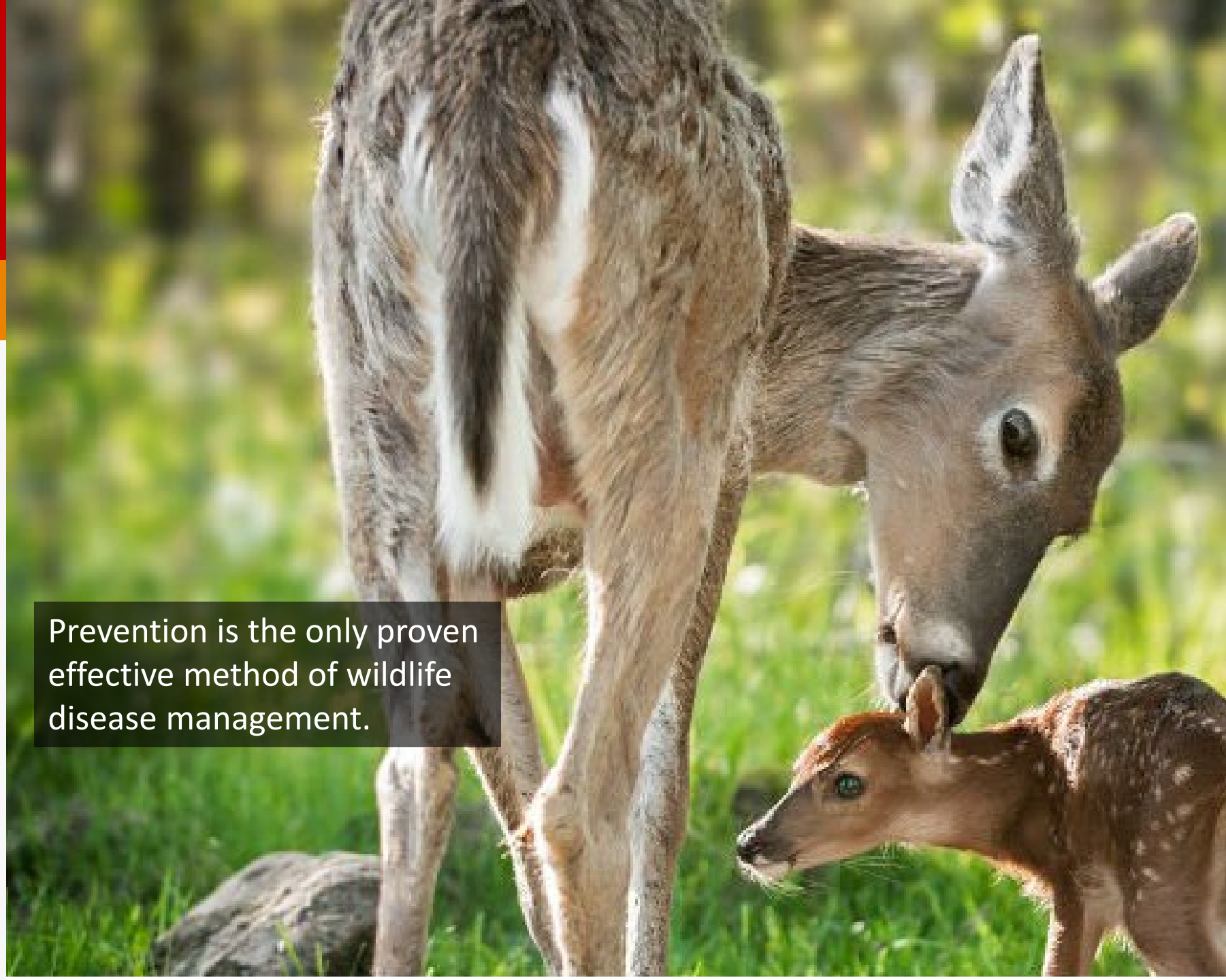
# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Prevention

We monitor reports from other state and federal agencies and partners to identify new disease threats that need attention.

For these threats, the program designs targeted surveillance and research projects; and works with partners on education, prevention, and response plans.

Prevention is the only proven effective method of wildlife disease management.



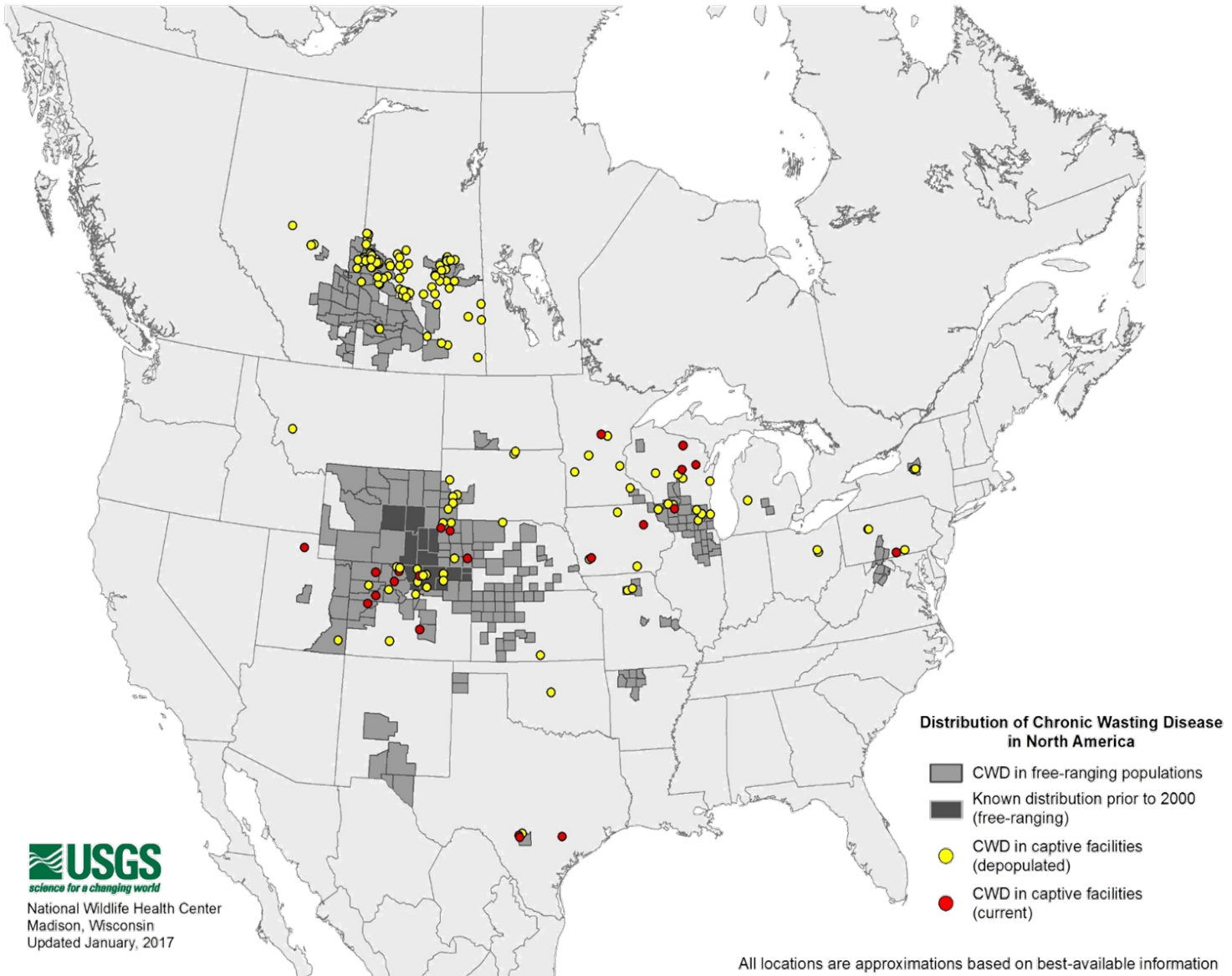
# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Prevention

One of our biggest priorities is preventing the reintroduction of chronic wasting disease (CWD) into the New York State wild deer herd.

Deer hunting and recreational activities contribute \$1.5 billion annually to the NY state economy.

NY has an intensive surveillance program and comprehensive prevention and response plans for this disease.



# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Research

We conduct many collaborative research projects with partners from a variety of universities, non-profits and state and federal agencies.

Projects may be initiated when biologists identify a pressing need, or because we discover disease issues that require further investigation.



Eastern hellbender Captive Rearing and Release



Lymphoproliferative disease



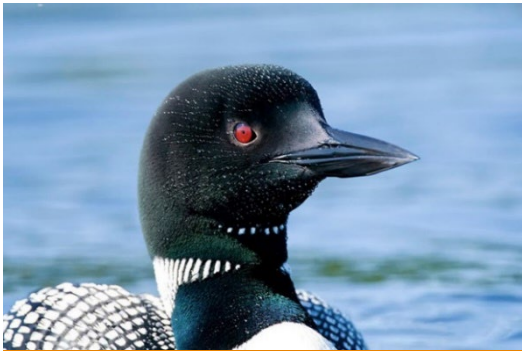
WTD fawn survival



eDNA



Moose health



Lead toxicity in loons & eagles



Muskrat kidney spots

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Training

We hold regular staff training workshops every other year and provide a variety of materials to keep staff up to date on safe handling of wildlife.

Staff may also make requests for specialized training, health information, or support for agency activities.

Staff safety is one of our highest priorities.



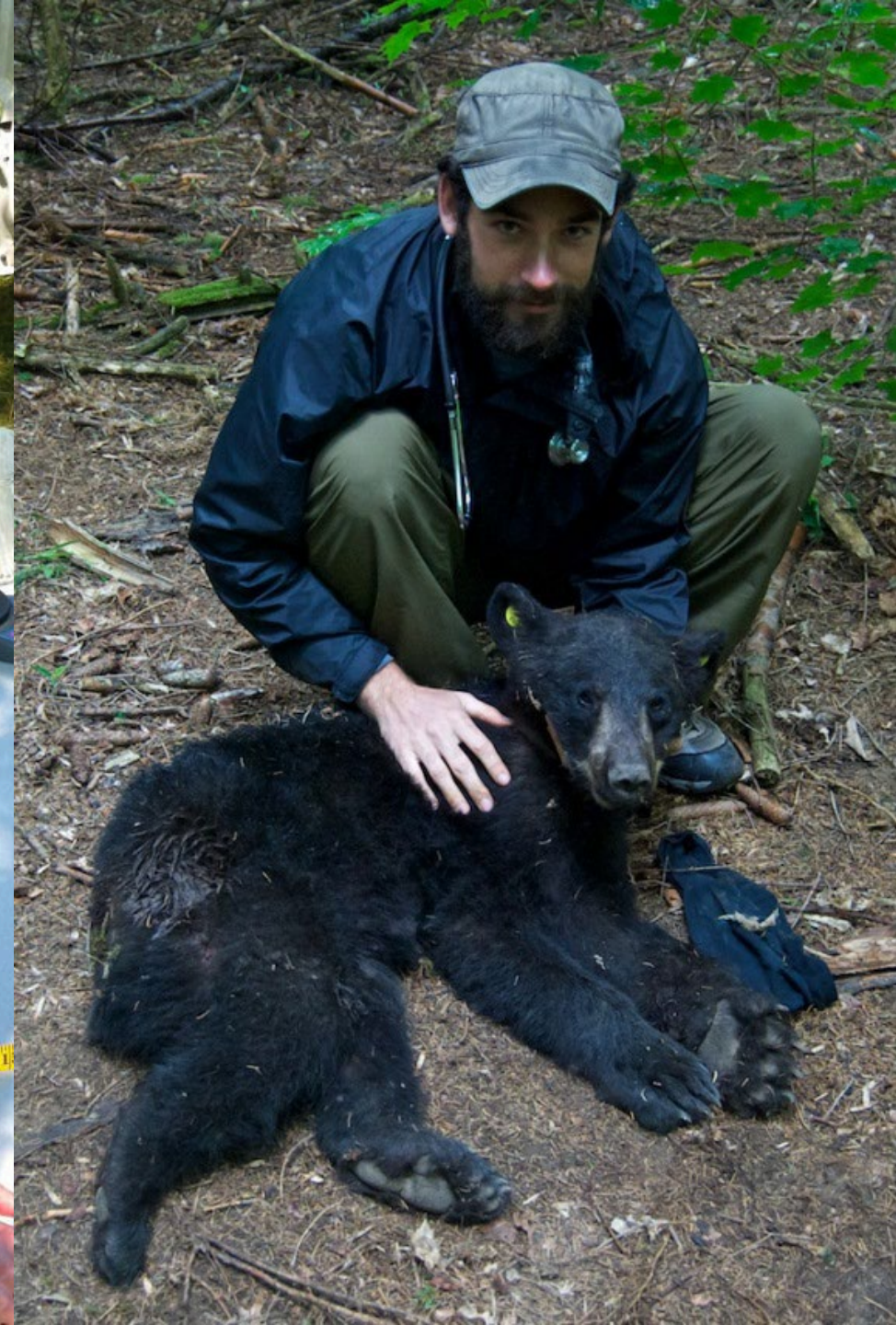
# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Teaching

Our program regularly engages high school, undergraduate, and graduate students in our research and day-to-day activities.

We may ask NYSDEC staff to allow students to participate in field activities.

Students gain valuable insights from interacting with both wildlife biologists and veterinarians.



# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Policy Support

We are always available for NYSDEC managers and biologists to answer questions about care and handling of wildlife, review research permits, and provide input on regulations and management plans.



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# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## Personnel



### Core Program

#### NYSDEC Central Office, Albany

Patrick Martin, *Program Leader*

#### NYSDEC Wildlife Health Unit, Delmar

Kevin Hynes, *Wildlife Biologist*  
Joseph Okoniewski, *Wildlife Biologist*  
John Shea, *Wildlife Technician*  
Ashley Ableman, *Wildlife Technician*

#### Cornell University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY

Dr. Elizabeth Bunting, *Veterinarian*  
Dr. Krysten Schuler, *Wildlife Disease Ecologist*  
Dr. Maria Forzan, *Pathologist*  
Nicole Dean, *Wildlife Program Aide*  
Nicholas Hollingshead, *Geospatial Analyst*  
Richalice Melendez, *Wildlife Technician*

### Wildlife Health Team NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife

Region	Staff
1	Leslie Lupo
2	Sandy Chan
3	Tim Watson
4	Karl Parker
5	Paul Jensen
6	Blanche Town
7	Tom Bell (co-chair)
8	Jenny landry
9	Ryan Rockefeller
WHU	Kevin Hynes (chair)
AHDC	Krysten Schuler Elizabeth Bunting
BMT	Patrick Martin (Central Office) Michelle Gibbons (regional)
DLE	Major Matthew Revenaugh

# New York State Wildlife Health Program

## For More Information

<https://cwhl.vet.cornell.edu>



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