New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)



WHP QUARTERLY REPORT

Q2 - 2021 (APR-JUN)



The New York State Cooperative Wildlife Health Program (WHP) is a partnership between the NYSDEC Bureau of Wildlife and Cornell University's College of Veterinary Medicine AHDC that works to safeguard the long-term health of the wildlife populations of New York.



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Department of Environmental Conservation



Comparing lead ammo fragmentation (top) and nonlead ammo fragmentation (bottom) using ballistic gels

Non-lead Ammo Workshop

The DEC and CWHL joined the <u>North American Non-Lead Partnership</u> for a workshop on "Non-lead Ammunition Ballistics Testing and Communications" in Ballston Spa, NY on June 28. This event brought together people across industries and fields, included a ballistics demonstration of lead and non-lead ammo, and an open discussion on conservation efforts and choices hunters can make regarding ammunition, all with the goal of how to connect people with the science that improves conservation.

Program **happenings** in the **field** and in the **lab**

CWHL Team Additions

Now that the SOP4CWD participant numbers have grown to 22 state and provincial regions of North America, we needed some expert support to help. After a successful grant award, the CWHL hired Dr. Sohel Ahmed (Data Science), Ms. Cara Them (Contractor: statistics), and Ms. Corey Mitchell (Contractor: programming) to assist with the SOP4CWD project. Welcome Sohel, Cara, and Corey!

Moose Population Health

With a new PhD student, Jen Grauer, onboard, we are back in the Adirondacks to investigate the impacts of a suite of local parasites on moose individual and population health.



Photo by Melissa Fadden

Under the **scope...**

While catching up on some of the testing delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, a Northern water snake (*Nerodia sipedon sipedon*) from Tompkins County that had come through the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Hospital was pulled from the freezer archives in May and necropsied. With notable skin defects seen during necropsy, it was submitted for *Ophidiomyces ophiodiicola* PCR, which returned positive.

Snake fungal disease (SFD) has been reported in various water snake species, including our native Northern, but had not yet been diagnosed in a water snake in New York or confirmed in Tompkins County in any species. Previous SFD positives within the state include timber rattlesnakes, milk snakes, and garter snakes.

Keeping YOU in the loop!

- Interested in getting the "WHP Weekly Case Reports"? Email us at <u>cwhl@cornell.edu</u> to get registered & keep up to date on all WHP cases! Access to the case reporting system is available to agency staff.
- Check out the latest WHP disease watch alerts, Wildlife 411, or Lab news impacting wildlife health at <u>cwhl.vet.cornell.edu</u>.

Promoting the health and sustainability of wildlife populations through integration of wildlife ecology and veterinary medicine



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