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

An adult male coyote was found dead in Putnam County without any obvious signs of trauma. Necropsy revealed internal bleeding with a large amount of blood in the thoracic cavity and a heavy heartworm (Dirofilaria immitis) infestation with a large number of adult worms in the right atrium and ventricle of the heart, pulmonary arteries, and caudal vena cava.

In addition, a high concentration of the anticoagulant rodenticide bromadiolone was detected in the liver. The coyote was likely exposed to the rodenticide after consuming a rodent that had been poisoned. Rodenticide poisoning interfering with blood coagulation and causing internal bleeding along with the heartworm infestation causing damage and obstruction of vessels were both factors in the death of the coyote.

SOP4CWD Data Warehouse Workshop at International Symposium for CWD

New York was represented at the 4th International Chronic Wasting Disease Symposium held in Denver, CO, along with other researchers, state wildlife agencies, regulators, and deer owners. A lot had happened in the 14 years since the last symposium was held!

The Surveillance Optimization Project for Chronic Wasting Disease (SOP4CWD) started as a regional approach to white-tailed deer surveillance, based on New York's risk-weighted surveillance program, which has been adopted by other states. The project has now grown to invite all U.S. states, Canadian provinces, and tribes to join. Krysten Schuler, Nick Hollingshead, and Cara Them (contractor) hosted a workshop to introduce SOP4CWD to attendees prior to the symposium. They highlighted DEC adoption of digital data entry at deer check and integration of the Data Warehouse. Brenda Hanley gave a presentation in the opening session of the conference on the benefits of using models within the SOP4CWD Data Warehouse for decision making.

Program happenings in the field and in the lab

Safety Reminder

- Don't forget RABIES is out there in more than just the “usual suspects.” We’ve detected rabies in a black bear this year. Be diligent when collecting or handling any mammal specimens. Check out the Rabies fact sheet for additional details.

New Publications, Software & Articles

- Population impact to bald eagles by ingested lead in New York State, 1990–2018
- Raptor Health V2: Software to assess the population-scale impact of mortality in raptors
- Decoding the Craft of Science Writing

Keeping YOU in the loop!

- Interested in getting the “WHP Weekly Case Reports”? Email us at cwhl@cornell.edu 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 cwhl.vet.cornell.edu.

Promoting the health and long-term sustainability of wildlife populations by advancing scientific tools and sharing knowledge to protect and improve the health of native wildlife populations

Cornell Animal Health Diagnostic Center