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.
Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD)

New York experienced its first EHD outbreak in white-tailed deer since 2011. The DEC received reports of dead or sick deer across Regions 3 & 4 with positive results from counties including Putnam, Orange and Dutchess initially. Deer mortalities continued to increase and deaths hit 1455, with 650 East of the Hudson and 805 West of the Hudson by late October when the outbreak ended. Serotyping by Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS) shows in NY it was the EHDV-6 strain. We all waited for a good hard frost to kill the *Culicoides* midges responsible for transmission. To support outreach efforts, the WHP created an “EHD What You Need to Know” quick reference guide to help answer questions and provide visual representation of some notable clinical signs of EHD.

Program happenings in the field and in the lab

Wildlife Health Virtual Webinars

Using technology to keep you informed on current wildlife health news with monthly WHP Wildlife Health Webinars. If you missed any, you can see them here:

**COVID-19 in Wildlife (June)**

**Common Diseases in Wildlife (July)**

**Emerging Risks to Wildlife (August)**

**The NYS Wildlife Health Program (Sept)**

**Wildlife Forensics (Oct)**

Like these webinars?

Complete this quick 5 question survey and let us know what topics you would like to see covered in 2021.

Wildlife Health Webinar Survey

Curious case of cottontails

While on the lookout for Rabbit hemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV2) in wild rabbit populations, we came across a few interesting cases in cottontails. Cottontails are not commonly seen in pathology and trauma is the most frequent cause-of-death. However, we had two rabbits with high coccidia (single-cell parasite) burdens that haven’t been previously reported. There was another case in which a cottontail had a notably large cyst in the mesentery filled with 800 mL of fluid. There were numerous abscesses as well and further tissue examination by histopathology is pending.

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 essential agency staff.

- Check out the latest WHP disease watch alerts, Wildlife 411, or Lab news impacting wildlife health at cwhl.vet.cornell.edu.