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.
2021 Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease Outbreak

The DEC first began receiving reports of deceased deer in mid-July from the Hudson Valley region. Reports in the Great Lakes region and Long Island began in early September. Between July 15th and October 31st, nearly 2,000 animal reports were submitted to the NYSDEC and positive cases were confirmed in 15 counties. The New York State Wildlife Health Program launched a new online reporting system to handle the large number of incoming reports from the public, as well as provide information on priority cases to regions, and results reporting. In the event of another wildlife disease outbreak, this system can be used for communication, data collection from the public, and support DEC’s organized and rapid response.

Program happenings in the field and in the lab

Visiting Parasitologists

Wildlife parasitologist Dr. Rick Gerhold from University of TN and PhD student Dr. Matthew Kulpa from Texas A&M visited Cornell to collaborate on wildlife health and disease involving parasite infection.

NYS Rehabilitation Publication

Check out the latest WHP publication in PLOS ONE on the nuances of wildlife rehabilitation as part of wildlife management.

Species, causes, and outcomes of wildlife rehabilitation in New York State

Loaded with Liver Flukes

An emaciated white-tailed doe came through pathology with a number of issues. With severe dermatophilosis, a chronic mandibular fracture and abscess, and even porcupine quills in her legs, the most notable issue was a significantly damaged liver.

With close to 75% of the liver replaced by wide tracts of necrosis and pockets of pus, dissection revealed dozens of large Fascioloides magna, liver flukes. F. magna infection does not commonly cause this level of damage; however, in this case the damage and subsequent anaerobic bacterial infection resulted in death.

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.