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.
COVID-19 Symposium

In early November 2020, Cornell held a COVID-19 summit for researchers in Ithaca and Weill Medical College in NYC. Dr. Schuler presented in the One Health Perspectives session to discuss issues related to risks of spillover and spillback in free-ranging North American wildlife. She covered stressors that impact wildlife health, such as human development and climate change. Unlike human or domestic animal health that have clear jurisdictional guidelines, responsible parties for wildlife health often are delineated by species, land ownership, or pathogen. The CDC has provided interim guidance for when wild animals should be tested and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) has recommendations for humans working with wild mammals.

Program happenings in the field and in the lab

Big Game Health in NYS

Watch DEC biologists Kevin Hynes & Jeremy Hurst discussing impacts to big game. 
Deer & Bear Health in NYS

CWD Podcast

Check out Dr. Krysten Schuler discussing CWD on WildFed Podcast #60
What You Need to Know About Chronic Wasting Disease

Forensics Certification

Melissa Fadden completed the Wildlife Forensic Sciences graduate certificate program at University of Florida in December. She joins Ashley Ableman, who completed the training earlier in the year.

A Great Horned Owl was found dead in December at a golf course in Albany. It was emaciated with no subcutaneous or visceral fat. There were caseous lesions in the corners of the mouth but the trachea and esophagus were clear. The liver and spleen had round white lesions of varying sizes throughout, suggestive of a tumor. However, immunohistochemistry (IHC) was unable to confirm the identity of the neoplastic cells. The tumor cells have moderate to large numbers of inflammatory T-cells intermixed within the neoplastic cells. This is a common finding when tumors become larger. Final diagnosis: Multicentric undifferentiated malignant round cell neoplasm.

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.