New York State Wildlife Health Program (WHP)

**WHP QUARTERLY REPORT**

**Q4- 2022 (OCT - DEC)**

- **110 deaths by trauma**
  - 82 birds* & 28 mammals
  - *16 peregrine falcons

**CAUSES OF DEATH**

- **354 Total submissions**
- **26 Rabies tests 0 Positive**
- **174 HPAI tests 47 Positive**

**SUBMISSIONS BY REGION**

**TARGETED HEALTH SURVEILLANCE**

- **42 Bird species 242 submissions**
- **3 Herp species 3 submissions**
- **18 Mammal species 109 submissions**

*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.*
Chocolate Toxicity in Black Vultures

The importance of examining multiple specimens during mortality events came to the forefront during the HPAI outbreak. From September through October, the WHU received many wild black vultures from a local zoo, suspected die-offs from Avian Influenza. During necropsy, two specimens displayed interesting signs, most notable was a strong chocolate odor emanating from the crop contents.

Additional testing by the UC Davis Veterinary Clinical Diagnostic Lab determined both birds had elevated theobromine and caffeine levels in their livers, confirming chocolate toxicity as the cause of death.

Welcome Aboard - New Wildlife Veterinarians!

Dr. Therese McNamee joined the WHU team as a Research Scientist. As a DVM with a background in public health and conservation medicine, Therese will concentrate on wildlife necropsy and disease diagnostics. One of her favorite wildlife experiences was in Honduras as a veterinary student. She had the opportunity to assist with the chemical immobilization and examination of a mountain lion.

Dr. Jenny Bloodgood joined the CWHL team as an Assistant Professor of Practice. As a DVM/PhD with a background in wildlife biology, marine mammals, and integrative conservation, Jenny will focus on wildlife disease surveillance and research, teaching and training, and policy support. One of Jenny’s most interesting wildlife experiences involved a 34 ft (think school bus) sperm whale stranding in Mobile Bay, AL. As the veterinarian in charge, Jenny oversaw the stranding response and eventual euthanasia and necropsy of that animal.

New Projects Online

Waterfowl Contaminant Study
SARS-CoV-2 & White-tailed Deer
Using Mathematical Models To Study Furbearer Populations

New Disease Fact Sheet
Avian Pox

New Publications
Occurrence of mange in American black bears (Ursus americanus) in New York State, USA.
Aquatic eDNA can advance monitoring of a small-bodied terrestrial salamander and amphibian pathogen

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.