



Cornell University

Cornell Wildlife Health Center

NEW YORK STATE WILDLIFE HEALTH PROGRAM



OUR GOAL

The New York State Cooperative Wildlife Health Program (WHP) is a partnership between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Cornell Wildlife Health Lab at the College of Veterinary Medicine's Animal Health Diagnostic Center. We work to safeguard the long-term health of New York State's wildlife populations by integrating the fields of veterinary medicine and disease ecology.

Our laboratories in Albany and Ithaca conduct routine surveillance and in-depth research, staff training and data analysis to support NYSDEC's mission. We maintain strong relationships with partners in human and domestic animal health to address issues common to all under the One Health philosophy.

RESEARCH

Our research is broadly collaborative and driven by real world needs. At any given time we may have more than a dozen active projects combining field and laboratory work with a diverse group of colleagues from around the country.

We are undertaking research on moose health in the Adirondacks region, geographical epidemiology of bear mange, white-tailed deer fawn survival, lead poisoning in bald eagles, and chytrid fungus in eastern hellbender salamanders.

DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

The WHP identifies emerging threats to wildlife, human, and domestic animal health; conducts targeted surveillance and research; and works with partners to plan comprehensive education, prevention, and response activities.

HEALTH AND DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Our team of biologists and veterinarians examines hundreds of submitted wildlife cases each year to investigate the causes of mortality.

Real-time surveillance allows us to establish common disease patterns as well as to rapidly detect and respond to new and emerging threats that can impact wildlife, human, and domestic animal health.

Our online case database allows biologists to rapidly access technical information and better respond to public inquiries.

TRAINING

One of our highest priorities is training NYSDEC staff to keep them safe in the course of their job duties. Training of field biologists is critical so they can respond to public inquiries, and conduct field investigations of disease outbreaks. We regularly provide outreach to the public, and training for law enforcement officials, students, and other stakeholders.

POLICY SUPPORT

Our program staff draw on a variety of resources and expertise to provide NYSDEC with the most up-to-date scientific information on wildlife health.

