CCVRNews

Mission Statement

The California Council for Wildlife Rehabilitators is dedicated to advancing wildlife rehabilitation and supporting wildlife in a changing world.

Winter 2017

CCWR 22ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM RECAP

n October 2016, 184 people attended our most recent symposium held in Fresno at the Doubletree Hotel, with five participants from out of state (Canada, Oregon, Washington, and Nevada). Attendees enjoyed starting out each day with a different light fitness regimen with a trained instructor before classes started. Saturday's first lecture was Compassion Fatigue by Dr. John Dussich who taught us all to watch out for ourselves as well as the animals we care for. Dr. Dussich remained throughout the symposium as his signup sheet for one on one conversations became filled. On Sunday, Rebecca Dmytryk conducted a separate workshop on Wildlife Search and Rescue.

We would like to thank our sponsors for the different workshops and labs: The Barbachano Family, Cytosol Inc., The Bolen Family Trust, Mike's Falconry, Pacific Gas and Electric, Skyhunters and Nancy Conney, Western Sporting, Dr. & Mrs. Scott & Shawnie Williams.

Please enjoy the photos taken from the symposium. To view all the photos, go to: https://goo.gl/photos/aKPEP3GtH1mMNbfw9





























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CCWR 22ND ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM RECAP, CONTINUED



























NICOLES' CORNER

CDFW 2016-2017 North and South **Regional Meetings Recap**

By Nicole Carion



The California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) held combined regional meetings; northern regions in December and southern regions

in January. The December meeting at U.C. Davis was taped and can be viewed at: https://ucdsvm.mediasite.com/mediasite/ Play/4903699505554b0e90038a6d5663e6971d

It will take a couple of minutes to initialize the video (it will say "opening"). The audience questions cannot be heard very well. If you wave your cursor in the top right corner of the main frame of the recording there is an icon with two arrows. Clicking the icon will allow you to choose whether you want the full view of the speaker or the PowerPoint itself. It is suggested to choose the full view of the PowerPoint display. You do have the option of fast-forwarding the recording past the "down time" before the meeting started (the meeting starts 10 minutes into the recording) and at the break or any other section you choose to skip.

CDFW requires two hours of continuing education annually and generously provides four hours of training each year in the form of regional meetings. Only wildlife rehabilitation permittees are notified of the meetings. Please check with the permit holder at your facility to find out when and where the annual regional meetings will be held (typically northern regions in November/ December and southern regions in January/ February). Nicole Carion organizes these meetings and welcomes volunteers in addition to permit holders from licensed organizations as long as space permits and everyone RSVPs through Nicole. Otherwise, Nicole depends on attendees to pass on the information from these meetings to the pertinent personnel at their facility. Other ways to obtain the requisite two hours continuing education are: in-house organizational training meetings, CCWR,

NWRA symposiums or IWRC physical or online classes. In-house formal meetings outlines must be approved by Nicole Carion 60 days prior to the class being conducted (in a perfect world). Once the outline is approved, it may be continually used (even with slight changes) without being reapproved. A major agenda overhaul needs to be submitted for approval.

NICOLE CARION (CDFW Senior Environmental Scientist. Statewide coordinator for Wildlife Rehabilitation)

First, Nicole discussed permit renewal

Region 1	10-31-16
Region 2	06-30-16
Region 3	12-30-17
Region 4	10-30-16
Region 5	03-31-17
Region 6	10-30-16

Permits are valid for three years. The application renewal form is sent out by CDFW 60 days prior to that region's expiration date. The renewal form is not available online. The renewal application must be completed, signed and returned via the postal service along with the permit renewal fee. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be emailed to the permittee who must sign the MOU and mail back the original signature page (only) to Nicole Carion after making a copy of the signature page to keep for yourself. Every paid staff member or volunteer of a wildlife rehabilitation organization who physically handles wildlife shall read the MOU and sign a document affirming he or she understands and shall abide by the terms and conditions of the MOU. The new MOU has deleted the outdated appendices regarding deer, bats and coyotes. After all of these steps have been completed, the new permit will be mailed to you.

Some new conditions on the MOU are:

- You must contact CDFW (Nicole Carion 530-357-3986) before submitting a wild animal for a fee-forservice necropsy by a veterinarian or diagnostic lab.
- Fawn rehabilitators who have 12 or more fawns must contact Nicole Carion 30 days prior to release to discuss intended release sites.
- Wildlife is to be released as close as possible to where it was found. If that is not possible, then it should be released within a 10 mile radius of where it was found.

Year-End reports are due January 31 and should include education animals, volunteer lists and continuing education credit verification of satellites.

Every permittee is required to submit an Endof Year Report, however, only those reports submitted via the Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database (WRMD) online will be summarized for CDFW general state-wide published statistics.

There is a new approved permittee in Region 1, Marily Woodhouse, who will rehabilitate raptors. Permits are pending for four permittees. Retired wildlife rehabilitators include: Dawn Sylvesteer and Kathy Case.

Two wildlife scenarios and their FAQs were discussed. The first was a tiger salamander (threatened/endangered species) kept as a pet for two years, then relinquished to a wildlife rehabilitation organization. A wild salamander kept for an extended period of time or exposed to any other animals in a captive situation cannot be released back into the environment due to the potential of disease and parasite spread. Each scenario is evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Please gather as much information as possible regarding the history of the animal. For any threatened or endangered species that are relinquished and cannot be released to

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NICOLES' CORNER

CDFW 2016-2017 North and South Regional Meetings Recap, continued

Continued from page 3

the wild, notify Nicole Carion (Nicole. Carion@wildlife.ca.gov) or Jennifer Brown of the United States Fish & Wildlife Services (USFWS) who keep a list of facilities licensed to have them for educational purposes.

The second scenario presented was a juvenile ringtail that had been brought in by a member of the public who believed it was "too tame" to survive in the wild on its own. Ringtails, especially juveniles, may appear unusually tame, however, this behavior is not uncommon and in most cases the animal can be released back into the wild. Ringtails do not enter rehabilitation facilities often so be aware they may appear tame but in reality have somewhat calm temperaments and may be suitable for release.

STELLA McMILLIN (CDFW

Environmental Scientist)

Stella has been handling pesticide issues for 20 years. She used to get all her cases from wardens, now nearly 100% of her cases come from wildlife rehabilitators. The challenge today is the poisoning incidents are less obvious with problematic pesticides being used in residential areas rather than agricultural areas.

The goals of investigating illegal pesticide use are:

- 1. Corrective action (utilizing the local warden, California Advisory Committee {CAC}, Office of Communications, Education and Outreach {OCEO}).
- 2. Communicating information to county, state and federal regulators.
- 3. Initiating a change in regulations, if necessary.

No rodenticide is completely safe for use around wildlife, children or pets. Anticoagulant rodenticides (AR) continue to be the most commonly detected pesticide in wildlife. Generally, the regulation changes on AR use has not changed the amount of cases. In the past two years there have been

20 AR intoxications recorded:

- 10 brodifacoum
- 5 bromadiolone
- 2 difethialone
- 1 difenacoum

The species involved were four Great Horned Owls, four squirrels, three Red-shouldered Hawks, three skunks, two Turkey Vultures, one bear, one bobcat, one San Joaquin kit fox and one gray fox. All of these cases involved second generation anticoagulants, which can persist several months in animals, making it difficult to pinpoint where and when the exposures took place.

As a wildlife rehabilitator, checking for signs of AR intoxication first involves considering the species of the animal. Is the animal a predator, scavenger or a primary feeder on rodents? Is the animal weakened? Is there bleeding from different orifices? Are mucous membranes pale?

There are two different kinds of anticoagulant rodenticides. A first generation AR (FGAR) is for multiple feedings, is less persistent in the tissues and is labeled for use for commensal and outdoor rodents. FGAR detections are increasing, especially diphacinone. Other types of FGARs are chlorophacinone and warfarin.

Second generation ARs (SGAR) are intended for a single feeding and are more toxic. SGARs are still the primary problem for secondary exposure and have the highest prevalence of detections and nearly all intoxication cases in monitored wildlife. They are more persistent in the animal's tissue and are registered for commensal use only. The most common SGARs registered in the U.S. are brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difethialone and difenacoum.

CDFW recommended that the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) make SGARs Restricted Use Materials (need a license to buy or use). Also recommended by CDFW was that outdoor use be limited to within

50 feet of a man-made structure. The DPR agreed with CDFW and made those regulation changes in July 2014. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also acted to remove the products from consumer venues. CDFW continues to monitor to determine if the regulations are having the desired effect.

Bromethalin - A commensal rodent and mole toxicant. It is available in pellets, blocks, prefilled bait stations, place packs and worms. Bromethalin losses in the past two years are mostly skunks and raccoons in Marin County. Marin County was the source of most cases because of active surveillance of urban wildlife by WildCare. Signs of intoxication could appear to be trauma or neurological diseases and/or paralysis of the rear limbs. Labels on bromethalin-containing pesticides mandate use only in bait stations. Unfortunately, some homeowners may not adhere to the label and expose wildlife to the bait. Not following a pesticide's label instructions is a violation of the California Food and Agriculture Code and is enforced by the County Agricultural Commissioners. CDFW would like to see bromethalin products sold only in tamper resistant bait stations.

Strychnine – A bait that is labeled only for below-ground use for the control of pocket gophers. In wildlife, strychnine is mostly seen due to primary exposure, which is an animal directly consuming the bait. Any strychnine used above ground is an illegal application. Affected animals may appear intoxicated, exhibit neural trauma signs, tremors and stiff-legged posture (even after death) for mammals.

Avitrol® is usually mixed with regular bird seed. Proper use requires pre-baiting to ensure only the intended target species (usually Rock Pigeons) consume the seed. Then someone must remain on site to continue to ensure only target birds are eating the seed, dispose of bird carcasses and clear all the uneaten seed from the location.

Zinc Phosphide has caused intoxication in wild and domestic geese and wild turkeys. Per label instructions, pre-baiting is required to ensure only the intended target species will consume the bait. Once this is confirmed, then the poisoned bait can be used. Once consumed, the poisoned bait mixes with acid in the stomach producing phosphine gas and results in a quick death. It is readily available in many stores (Home Depot, farm supply stores). Illegally poisoned wildlife detected in 2016 included three geese and several wild turkeys.

There is information on the CDFW website on how to protect wildlife from rodenticides (see Resources at the end of this article). First, sanitation must be practiced by the homeowners; eliminate trash, pet food, yard debris, bird feeders and fallen fruit. Seal all openings to your home greater than 1/2 inch and make sure all screens and air vents are securely fastened. Encourage natural predators such as birds of prey. Use mechanical rather than chemical control. Be informed of techniques and materials used by any pest control professional you hire.

TERRA KELLY, DVM & DEVIN **D**ombrowski

Dr. Kelly is an epidemiologist and wildlife veterinarian at the Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis. Devin Dombrowski developed the database Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database WRMD. Together they discussed a new add-on to the database named Wildlife Rehabilitation Medical Database-Surveillance (WRMD-S) which is being used to monitor diseases and other threats that may impact California wildlife.

The program was launched in August 2016. Participating centers will be alerted when increased numbers of animals with similar clinical symptoms are entered into WRMD. A chime will sound on your computer during WRMD input that alerts and refers you to the incidents that are occurring with the species you are entering. Please contact Devin at: devin.dombrowski@ wildneighborsdp.org if you are interested in participating in the WRMD-S program. Devin Dombrowski will also be traveling to different wildlife rehabilitation centers to offer additional training on WRMD use.

Initial findings of WRMD-S identified increased admissions of juvenile Cooper's Hawks to participating centers during spring and summer of 2016. Symptoms presenting were poor body condition, inability to stand, mental dullness, sometimes with trauma. Post-mortem exams by CDFW and testing at the California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) at U.C. Davis revealed the birds were infected with West Nile Virus (WNV). High numbers of WNV positive Cooper's Hawks were also reported by CDPH by their WNV surveillance program. Another event detected through WRMD-S included increased numbers of non-native Eurasian Collared Doves with neurological symptoms admitted into a Monterey County rehabilitation center. Post-mortem exam and testing conducted by CDFW diagnosed these doves with Pigeon Paramyxovirus Virus (PPMV-1). PPMV-1 is closely related to Exotic Newcastle's Disease (END) in domestic fowl but has been found to primarily infect pigeons and doves. CDFW is concerned PPMV-1 could spread to native Band-tailed Pigeons and Mourning Doves. Finally, increased admissions of Western and Clark's Grebes were detected from several participating centers. The primary finding at admission was emaciation. Post-mortem exams of several grebes determined the cause of mortality to be starvation.

CDFW requests wildlife rehabilitators keep carcasses of suspicious deaths, if possible, in order to give CDFW time to arrange for the carcasses to be shipped to them.

KRYSTA ROGERS (Lead wildlife biologist for avian disease and mortality investigations for CDFW at the Wildlife Investigations Lab.)

Krysta gave an update on avian investigations occurring in 2016.

Avian Cholera occurs every winter in California. Increased mortality involving multiple waterfowl species was reported between December 2015 and March 2016. Species affected included American Coot, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Ruddy Duck and Snow Goose. Deaths occurred in seven counties including Siskiyou, Butte, Yolo, Alameda, San Joaquin, Merced and Kings. The estimated number dead were 20 - 2,000 per location and approximately 10,000 total.

Duck Virus Enteritis (DVE), aka duck plague, is a disease of ducks and geese. Historically, this disease has primarily affected captive ducks on duck farms (e.g. Pekin Ducks) and less commonly in urban ponds (e.g. Muscovy Ducks and Mute Swans). An outbreak was detected at an urban pond in Yuba County in March 2016. Mortality mostly involved Muscovy Ducks. The last outbreak documented by CDFW was in 1993. Duck Virus Enteritis is likely maintained in populations of Muscovy Ducks at urban ponds. Wild waterfowl may be at risk of infection when using ponds inhabited by Muscovys.

Avian Trichomonosis was detected in Bandtailed Pigeons between November 2015 and April 2016. Mortality was reported from locations in six counties, with some individual deaths reported during migration from an additional seven counties. The total number of Band-tailed Pigeons estimated to have died during these events was 3,000 -5,000. Avian Trichomonosis was also detected in Mourning Doves between February and October 2016. Focal mortality was reported from locations in 16 counties resulting in an estimated 1,000 - 3,000 dead birds. Deaths in Mourning Doves were primarily focused around bird baths and bird feeders. Carcasses are requested by CDFW for suspect cases in all species. Continued on page 6

NICOLES' CORNER

CDFW 2016-2017 North and South Regional Meetings Recap, continued

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Mycoplasmosis is a bacterial infection that causes conjunctivitis and upper respiratory symptoms in birds. An outbreak was confirmed in goldfinches and house finches from several counties between February and November 2016. Adult birds with conjunctivitis were reported first in February and then juveniles were reported throughout the spring and summer. Total number of finches that died during this outbreak was estimated at 2,000 – 5,000.

Increased incidence of West Nile Virus (WNV) infection was detected in juvenile Cooper's Hawks between June and July 2016. Clinical signs in affected Cooper's Hawks included dehydration, anemia, weakness and poor feather condition. Other species affected by WNV included juvenile Red-tailed Hawks, Great Horned Owls, Mockingbirds and Corvids.

Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1 is a disease that most commonly infects pigeons and doves. CDFW first detected Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1 in free-ranging nonnative Eurasian Collared Doves in 2014 in Riverside County. In 2015 outbreaks were detected in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and San Diego counties, and again in Riverside County. In 2016, outbreaks were detected again in San Luis Obispo County, and in Monterey, Los Angeles and Kern counties. Also in 2016, an outbreak was detected in free-ranging Rock Pigeons in the Sacramento area. Carcasses are requested by CDFW for surveillance given the concern this disease may pose to our native Bandtailed Pigeons and Doves.

Mass starvation events were documented in several species in 2016. Highest mortality was detected in juvenile Common Murres along the north coast, juvenile Brandt's Cormorants along the central coast and Western and Clark's Grebes along the central and southern coasts as well as a few inland reservoirs.

The Raptor Disease and Contaminant Study is wrapping up. Between January 2013 and November 2016 CDFW received over 700 raptor carcasses from 53 out of 58 counties. Rehabilitation centers contributed the most carcasses to this study by far. Highlighting a few of findings to date, WNV was detected in almost 10% of submitted raptors with highest infection in bird-eating raptors such as Cooper's Hawks. WNV occurred most commonly during the summer and late fall, coinciding with mosquito activity. Avian Trichomonosis was the cause of death for almost 5% of the raptors. Incidence was highest during the summer likely coinciding with outbreaks in Mourning Doves, and in the winter likely coinciding with outbreak in Band-tailed Pigeons. Prevalence of lead exposure was almost 4% and was highest in Golden Eagles and Turkey Vultures. Other birds with exposure included a Great Horned Owl, a Red-shouldered Hawk, and two Red-tailed Hawks which may have resulted from eating prey contaminated at an outdoor shooting range.

Prevalence of anticoagulant rodenticide exposures was almost 80% of the raptors tested to date. Most exposure involved SGAR and many birds often showed exposure to two or more rodenticides. Antirodenticide toxicosis was identified as the cause of death in about 20% of these cases. Exposure to AR was highest during the winter when rodents often seek shelter inside houses and buildings. Other causes of mortality included trauma such as vehicle and window strikes, gunshot, electrocution and starvation.

Brandon Munk, MS, DVM

(Veterinary Lead for deer, bear, and restricted species for the CDFW)

Brandon spent three years as a wildlife diagnostician, wildlife disease specialist, and chronic wasting disease coordinator for the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study (SCWDS).

Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSEs) aka "prion diseases" in animals include Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE or "mad cow disease"), scrapie, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), and transmissible mink encephalopathy. In humans TSEs include Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD), variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCID), kuru and Fatal Familial Insomnia. Transmission of CWD is direct through contact with contaminated saliva, urine or feces. Clinical signs of CWD include, head down, ears down, splayed front legs, excessive salivation, and emaciation. CWD has a variable incubation period from months following initial exposure to over 15 years. Many factors may affect the incubation period, including host genetics and CWD strain. The disease agent, the misfolded protein or "prion," is extremely robust and very difficult to destroy. The above attributes coupled with a protracted incubation period and pre-clinical shedding are some of the reasons why this disease is so concerning to wildlife professionals.

CWD has not been found in California. California has a number of regulations that help keep it a low-risk state for the introduction of CWD, including a ban on farming native cervids. Surveillance in California has been ongoing since 2000. To date, a little under 5,000 deer and elk have been tested with no prions detected. After USDA-APHIS drastically cut funding for CWD surveillance in 2012, we have opportunistically tested deer and elk that show clinical signs consistent with CWD, including poor condition, abnormal behavior, excessive salivation, and evidence of pneumonia, and road kills.

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REFERENCES OF NICOLE'S CORNER ARTICLE

Office of Communications, Education and Outreach: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/OCEO

California Department of Pesticide Regulation: http://www.cdpr.ca.gov

United States Environmental Protection Agency: https://www.epa.gov

How to Protect Wildlife from Rodenticides: https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Living-with-Wildlife/Rodenticides

California Department of Public Health: http://www.cdph.ca.gov

California Animal Health and Food Safety: https://www.fda.gov/downloads/AnimalVeterinary/ScienceResearch/UCM249878.pdf

CWD-Alliance: http://cwd-info.org

COMMITTEE UPDATES

The **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE** has met twice already this year, on January 8th and February 20th. With the exception of the meeting planned at the time of the symposium all meetings are held online.

This committee continues to be CCWR's largest and is currently comprised of eleven members. We welcomed Susan Pfau as a new member in February and thanked Shawnie Williams, who stepped down from the committee, for her participation over the past year.

Recent action agenda items include adding CCWR's support to a sign-on letter urging The National Governors' Association to oppose any upcoming legislative efforts to weaken the Endangered Species Act. A description of the situation, with a link to the full letter text, is available here: http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/news/ press releases/2017/endangered-speciesact-02-23-2017.php

The committee has also been busy compiling and reviewing information regarding four major causes wild animals are admitted for rehabilitation: free-roaming domestic cat attacks, illegal trapping, rodenticide poisoning, and tree trimming dislodging active nests. We plan to make resources and solutions available on our website, accessible to both our members and the public, with the aim to reduce the impacts upon wildlife (and wildlife rehabilitators!) caused by these issues.

Any CCWR member interested in joining the Advocacy Committee may contact Vann Masvidal, Committee Chair, vann@ccwr.org, for more information.

View the upcoming Fish & Game Commission meetings at: http://www.fgc. ca.gov/meetings/2017/

THE LAB COMMITTEE is seeking new ideas for lab presentations and presenters at future symposiums! If you have any suggestions please contact committee chairpersons Lucinda Adamson (lucinda@ccwr.org) or Vann Masvidal (vann@ccwr.org). Remember, CCWR is your organization and needs your input to thrive.

The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE** is charged with recruiting and evaluating potential new board members, and educating and assisting new board members with expected duties. Due to term limits, two board members must leave the board at the end of 2017, leaving the board with to too few members to continue as an entity (5 is the minimum). If you have ever considered joining the board, now is the time to apply. You can log in to ccwr.org and go to the Board of Directors Application form (under the Forms tab) at https://ccwr.org/membersonly/bodapplication/. It is preferred that you have participated in a committee for at least a year and attended one board meeting, but if you really want to be on the board, please apply.

The **SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE** is charged with soliciting symposium scholarship donations, publicizing scholarship opportunities and evaluating applications. There are usually three scholarships available to offset the cost of attending the symposium. If you won in the past, you can't apply again. The scholarship consists of one complementary symposium registration, one meal ticket, one lab ticket and a check for \$300. As soon as the symposium date and time are finalized, there will be more news about the scholarship and how to apply.

The **SYMPOSIUM COMMITTEE** is actively working to finalize the date and location of the 2017 event and will be looking for donations for the raffle and silent auction. Are you an artist or know one who might be willing to donate? Do you have other skills that you might be able to share as a prize? Please contact the board at board@ccwr.org if you can help.

WANT TO HELP? JOIN A COMMITTEE?

The committee application form is now online and available after login under the "Forms" tab (or directly at https://ccwr.org/ members-only/committee-membershipapplication/). We need you!



CALIFORNIA COUNCIL FOR WILDLIFE REHABILITATORS

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Join CCWR

If you are passionate about wildlife rehabilitation, you know that networking with other rehabilitators is essential to keep your skills sharp and current. Join the more than 300 California wildlife rehabilitators who are already members, and help us expand our network of knowledge and expertise. Joining or renewing is easy. Visit https://ccwr.org/join for all the details.

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Your Board Activity

Any CCWR member in good standing is welcome to attend the board meetings. Please advise CCWR President Vann Masvidal at least two weeks prior to attending (vann@ccwr.org). Members who wish to present a topic must understand that speaking time will be limited as the meeting agenda is typically full. An executive session or vote will require regular members to temporarily step out of the room.

UPCOMING 2017 BOARD MEETINGS

- April 1, 2017 from 10 am 3 pm on Skype
- August 26, 2017 from 9 am 3 pm on Skype
- Date and time to be announced (at the Symposium)