



Section Report to WDA: Report from the EWDA (European Wildlife Disease Association) for the period November 2008-May 2009.

EWDA management

- New democratic process for the EWDA. A programme of changes has been drawn up by one of the EWDA Board members (Thijs Kuiken) and the first steps in this programme have been undertaken (see next point).
- A Nominations Committee has been set up. This comprises three EWDA members who will nominate members for the EWDA Board. This is a preamble to the EWDA Board democratic elections which are due before the next EWDA meeting, September 2010.
- The EWDA Treasurers report from Ursula is attached separately.

Meetings

- EWDA bi-annual conference, took place in Rovinj, Croatia November 2008. Organised by Dr Ivan Vickovic. Approximately 250 delegates from 23 countries. Excellent to see at this meeting a good number of North American WDA officers and members, including the WDA President, and even a few Australian members. The conference universally was considered a success.
- Past president Dolores Gavier-Widen, welcomed in new president Paul Duff at the EWDA Croatia conference
- Two EWDA Board meetings occurred at Croatia, officer reports, and other points. Meeting minutes should be available on request.
- The next official EWDA conference in 2010 organisation has been started by Thijs Kuiken. The venue is the island of Vlieland in the Netherlands.
- the Third EWDA Student Workshop on 'Infectious Disease at the Human and Animal Interface' took place in March 2009 in Annecy, France. Yet again this was a resounding and, from all accounts, earth-breaking success, and thanks must go to the organisers - Leslie Reperant, Josanne Verhagen and Milos Gyuranecz aided by PhD students. Twenty professionals and 40 students attended.

- A symposium on 'Livestock and Biodiversity' occurred at the University of Berne, Switzerland in March 2009, organised by EWDA members Marie-Pierre Ryser and Adam Michel.

- Paul Duff gave a session-opening presentation on 'European Wildlife Disease' at the 11th Hellenic Veterinary Congress in Athens in Feb 2009. Three EWDA/WDA slides were discussed as part of the presentation.

- The Med-Vet-Net, Special Interest Group project on WiREDZ (Wildlife Related Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses) meeting occurred in Budapest, Hungary in December 2008. The meeting discussed wildlife disease surveillance in Europe and there was a focus on attracting delegates from as many European countries (EU and non-EU) as possible. Local organisers were Karoly Erdelyi and Miklos Gyuranecz.

Publications

- Production of two News from Europe reports for the Supplement to the Journal of Wildlife Disease (on-line).

- Production of an EWDA Bulletin by Marc Artois.

EWDA Scientific management

- An informal discussion group to discuss a European-wide network of National Wildlife Disease Schemes (NWDS) has started under EWDA auspices. There will be a planned meeting in Brussels, Belgium on 15th October 2009. Several other wildlife disease meetings will occur in Brussels during this week including the Annual meeting of the Belgian Wildlife Disease Association and a meeting for the WILDTECH project (see below).

Projects

- The EU sponsored WILDTECH project has started. The project title is 'Novel technologies for Surveillance of Emerging and Re-Emerging Infections of Wildlife'. This is a well funded, multi national (within the EU), multi-organisational project which will run for several years and is set to play an influential role in European wildlife disease science during that time.

- The EU sponsored, Med-Vet-Net, Special Interest Group project on WiREDZ (Wildlife Related Emerging Diseases and Zoonoses) comes to an end in 2009. It is hoped that the Europe-wide web-based register of WiREDZ workers (the WILDLIST) will be maintained.

<http://www.medvetnet.org/cms/templates/doc.php?id=197>

J Paul Duff
EWDA Chair
July 2009.