European section of the wildlife disease association bulletin

31 Dec. 2009

Year 3, Nr 5

Health of wild amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles

WIREless Webzine

Feature

Third BWDS Symposium and joint meetings (EWDA/NDOWS; WILDTECH), 14-16 October 2009. Page 8

Room for new members at the EWDA board

Editorial

This issue of our EWDA Bulletin is a perfect image of us… Rich, diverse and hectic! There you will find a reflection of the last six months members' activity. It is a lot to read… probably not the best way to improve your English, surely enough to give the need to share your experience next time.

This year will be exciting since we will have our biennial meeting. This is an opportunity to give anyone a chance to join the EWDA council; as illustrated by this picture where seats are waiting for new volunteers to give time and share fun and enthusiasm.

I write this, listening with perplexity the outcomes of the Copenhagen conference… I wonder what can be the place of veterinarians and wildlife biologist in such a word in crisis... Frederick LEIGHTON, in a recent conference suggested that it is a place for optimism and action! I let you follow the lane, next page. Enjoy this bulletin.

Happy new year, anyway.

Marc ARTOIS

SYNOPSIS·

Veterinary medicine for a world in crisis

Conference by Prof. F LEIGHTON at the veterinary school of Lyon and transmitted as a video conference to the Vetsuisse Faculty, university of Bern, 1 December 2009.

Adam MICHEL reports on the conference as it was perceived at distance, in Bern...

There were about 30 people present at the conference. My guess is that there were about 50% doctoral and undergraduate veterinary students and the other 50% was distributed among staff from different departments (mainly the wildlife group, but also parasitology, pharmacology, veterinary public health, and the dean's office) as well as a few members from the federal veterinary office and SAFOSO. I and a few other staff members were surprised at the high turnout of the event, given the time at which the conference took place and its late advertising. Before the beginning of the talk, sponsors were thanked, there was a quick mention about the activities of EpiForum Switzerland and distribution of member applications, a mention of the EWDA and its activities and finally a general thanks to all parties involved. Prof. Leighton's talk was clear and didn't leave space for misunderstandings. I hope that in the future, we will nonetheless be able to continue such transmissions between our two schools. Prof. Leighton's talk was clear and didn't leave space for misunderstandings. Its talk was well received by the public, it was certainly a talk that covered a wide range of topics and which was approachable to all. The general critique to the talk that I received is that it was too short and thus didn't go into as much detail as people would have expected. However, it did make many of the students

Sunset over the Wadden Sea. Cf. p.16

aware of the multiple perspectives that are open to vet students and in that sense I think it sent a very strong message! Marc Artois will make all material, including video of the conference available on the internet for download. We hope to see Prof. Leighton give a talk next time he is in Switzerland! Many thanks again to all parties involved! I hope that in the future, we will be able to continue such transmissions between our two schools.

PS: In Lyon were around 80 persons, mostly students. We were happy to have Prof Leighton, but disappointed not to be able to see and listen to our friends in Bern... M.A.

More on the conference at the M.A. Web Page of the Lyon Veterinary school Web site: http://www3.vet-lyon.fr/ens/epid/index.htm#TED

International H5N1 HPNAI Update (April-September 2009)

Richard M. Irvine & Ian H. Brown[1]

During the quarter there were no reported detections of H5N1 HPNAI in Member States of the European Union. However, further H5N1 HPNAI wild bird incidents were reported from Arkhangai Province, central Mongolia. During August 2009, deaths of 171 wild birds including bar-headed geese (*Anser indicus*), ruddy shelduck (*Tadorna ferruginea*) and common goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) were reported. Unofficial reports of a second wave of bird mortalities (kites, crows and herons) were subsequently received and the death of carrion species suggests that affected wild birds may have been scavenged. These events follow on from H5N1 HPNAI wild bird incidents reported in central Asia since May 2009, when the virus detections were reported from wild birds found dead at Genggahu Lake, Hainan Prefecture, Qinghai in China, comprising 107 Great crested grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*), three Bar-headed geese and 11 brown headed gulls. Further wild bird mortalities (n=162) were reported during late May in the Nanhai Prefecture, Qinghai, and approximately 23,700 poultry were pre-emptively culled in the region. Also during late May, Mongolia reported H5 HPNAI in migratory Whooper swans (*Cygnus cygnus*) from Arkhangai, a central Mongolian region over 900 miles from Qinghai. Furthermore, during June 2009, Russia reported the detection of H5N1 HPNAI in 58 wild birds found dead at a lake (Ubsu-Nur) in Respublika Tyva, a border region with north-western Mongolia. H5N1 HPNAI detections were also reported by Hong Kong. During February, wild birds (a large-billed crow, *Corvus macrorhynchos*, and winter migratory visitors, a grey heron, *Ardea cinerea* and a peregrine falcon, *Falco*

peregrinus) and poultry (chickens, ducks and a goose) were found dead, either washed up along the coast or found dead inland. During April, further detections were reported at the island location of Ping Chau, with two autolysed chicken carcases found off the coast of Hong Kong, and an H5N1 HPNAI-positive Crested Mynah (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) detected as part of an ongoing wild bird surveillance programme. No further spread of disease was reported to be evident

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(OIE, 2009).

In combination, these seasonal and geographical patterns of H5N1 HPNAI detections, notably those from wild birds in Central Asia (Qinghai, China followed by incidents in central Mongolia), are reminiscent of those seen during 2005 and 2006 with similar spread across Asia, ultimately towards and across Europe (and Africa) during 2006 (Defra, 2009). Interestingly,

Bar-headed geese have been identified as a migratory species that provide a Spring migratory connection between Qinghai and breeding areas in central Mongolia (Prosser and others, 2009). It has also been suggested that migratory Whooper swans in Mongolia may act as sentinel species that become infected as a result of contact with other wild birds (Newman and others, 2009).

These epidemiological patterns serve as a reminder of the global hazard posed by H5N1 HPNAI, particularly during the migratory season, and the importance for members of the public to report wild bird mortalities and for all poultry keepers to maintain robust biosecurity measures, vigilance for clinical signs of disease and to promptly report suspect cases.

http://t1.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:11NlsGFXb4a9MM:http://farm3.static.flickr.com/2658/4096960724_2040b96e40.jpg

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OIE, (2009). World Animal Health Information Database (WAHID) Interface – Weekly Disease Information. http://www.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=weekly_report_index&admin=0

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1. EU/ OIE/ FAO International Reference Laboratory for Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease, VLA Weybridge, New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey, KT15 3NB, United Kingdom.

Avian mycobacteriosis in free-living raptors in Majorca Island, Spain

Javier MILLAN[1]

Avian mycobacteriosis is a chronic, infectious disease caused by different species of mycobacteria, usually belonging to the *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC). From 2004 to 2007, 589 raptors brought dead or sick to the COFIB wildlife rehabilitation centre in Majorca (Balearic Islands, Spain) were necropsied. The birds belonged to 12 different species, chiefly common kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*) (n=297), scops owl (*Otus scops*) (n=109), barn owl (*Tyto alba*) (n=75), long-eared owl (*Asio otus*) (n=58), peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (n=27), and booted eagle (*Hieraaetus pennatus*) (n=13). Gross lesions compatible with mycobacteriosis were observed in 14 birds (2.4%) found in several locations in Majorca. They were 12 kestrels (prevalence in this species=4.0%), one long-eared owl (1.7%) and one scops owl (0.9%), all the birds presenting white-yellowish nodules from pinpoint size to 1 cm in diameter in diverse organs, mainly in liver, spleen and intestine. Affected organs were subjected to bacteriology and molecular identification by PCR and, in all the cases, infection with *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *avium* was confirmed. The observed prevalences are similar to those previously observed in Holland (Smit et al. 1987), though the actual prevalence detected in this study is likely to be higher than reported because only birds with gross lesions were

subjected to culture. Further molecular characterization with a set of six MIRU-VNTR loci was used to sub-type the isolates in order to show the existence of possible epidemiological links. Six different genotypes were found, which points to infection from multiple focuses. No temporal or geographical aggregation of the cases was observed associated to the presence of positive birds or to the different VNTR allelic profiles. The most feasible origin might be water or food sources, though the reservoir of

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mycobacteria remains unknown.

This work will be published as "Millán J, Negre N, Castellanos E, de Juan L, Mateos A, Parpal L, Aranaz A. Avian mycobacteriosis in free-living raptors in Majorca Island, Spain. Avian Pathology, in press".

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THE STUDY OF H5N1 OUTBREAK IN WILDFOWL OF ALBANIA.

Kastriot Korro[a]., Kristaq Berxholi[a]., Luljeta Qafmolla[b]., Liljana Cara[b]., Aldi Lika[b]

Albania is home to 370 species of indigenous wild birds. In 2006 the first instances of death among both domestic and wild birds were identified. This prompted the Albanian authorities to launch a study into the presence of AI-H5N1 among wild and domestic birds. The methods employed included the isolation of the virus in embryonic eggs, SPF, Rapid Test, ELISA-Test, HA, HIH. The control of samples was administered in the Virology Department of the Veterinary Research Institute and at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania. Samples from birds in Cuke village, Saranda (southern Albania) and Peze-Helmes Village (central Albania) were confirmed positive for the H5 virus. The same samples were sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory, Weybridge, UK and all were confirmed to be H5N1 positive.

The study took place from 2006 to

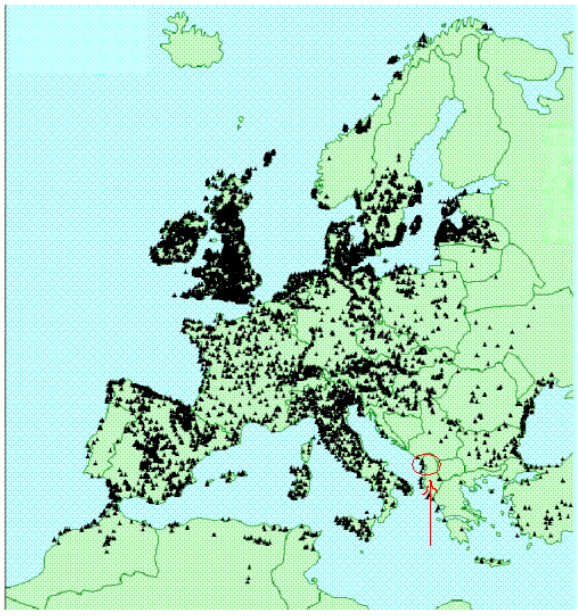

Fig. 1. Location of wild birds in the aquatic areas of the country. The circle, with the arrow pointing in the center, indicates Albania

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2007, during which time 3437 samples were collected and analysed. During 2006 a considerable number of samples were controlled as far as the normal circumstances permitted. A total number of 1484 samples were obtained from poultry including chickens, sea birds, wild ducks, geese, eagles, swans, storks and doves,
(see Table1).

During 2007, as many as 1953 samples have been checked which have been taken from such categories that include domestic chickens which appear to be huge in number , domestic and wild drakes, doves and canary-birds, geese and wild and domestic-doves. The areas are the same as those above. The data have been entered into the following table.

Table 1. Samples obtained in 2006

Bird species	*Number of samples*
Wild geese	22
Eagles and falcons	5
Gulls	5
Bleaks	4
Domestic and wild doves	79
Parrots and gargurs	18
Storks, pelicans and swans	4

Table 2. Samples obtained in 2007

Bird species	*Number of samples*
Drakes	45
Doves	100
Canary	28
Storks	1
Turkey	166
Wild ducks	2
Geese	17
Parrots	29
Balete	1

Positive results were largely confined to the H5N1 strain in domestic birds. Limited resources meant that only a small number of wild birds was sampled. In the future we have to make certain that surveillance should include wild birds, and the various strains of AI. This study is the first of its kind in Albania and represents an important step in disease management. It is hoped that in the future such surveillance will help in the control of outbreaks of AI among wild birds.

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Third BWDS Symposium and joint meetings (EWDA/NDOWS; WILDTECH), 14-16 October 2009

Paul TAVERNIER[1]

On October 16th, 2009, the Belgian Wildlife Disease Society, with the support of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Public Health, and hosted by the military hospital Queen Astrid, organized her bi-annual Symposium about diseases occurring in wildlife. The themes of the previous Symposia in 2005 and 2007 were respectively "Emerging Diseases" and "Wildlife Diseases, Environment and Man". The theme for this year's symposium was "Surveillance of Wildlife Diseases". A number of speakers enlightened us about different aspects of research in wildlife diseases in Belgium and in Europe with emphasis on "surveillance". Surveillance means very broadly the monitoring of possible disease agents as a component of the prevention of disease outbreaks.

In Belgium, there are several surveillance systems in farm- and companion animals, but wildlife is only sparsely included in these

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schemes. In Wallonia there is a specialized network that focuses on diseases in hunted animals (Réseau de Surveillance Sanitaire en Faune Sauvage). At the national level, a project called WILDSURV was started in 2008, granted by the Federal Government of Public Health. The objective is to develop a prioritizing system for diseases originating from wildlife which will help to decide which diseases should be monitored. This project runs parallel with similar projects in other European countries, and the current achievements were presented during the BWDS Symposium.

New to this third BWDS Symposium was that it was preceded at the same venue by two international meetings on October 14th and 15th. These joint-meetings were organized by the European Wildlife Disease Association (EWDA) and by the partners of the European WILDTECH project and were hosted by the Department Well-Being of the Belgian Ministry of Defence. Experts from all over Europe exchanged expertise and knowledge about surveillance systems in European wildlife.

The EWDA meeting under the heading "NDOWS (National Diseases of Wildlife Schemes)" was meant as a second edition and an update of the highly appreciated meeting that was held in Ciudad Real (Spain) in 2005 on the same subject. The current edition was attended by representatives of 25 European countries who presented and compared their national wildlife disease surveillance schemes.

This three-days event aimed to contribute to the creation of an integrated European surveillance system of wildlife diseases. Regarding the many positive reactions received after the meetings we are confident to conclude that important steps forward have been made towards a better cooperation and integration of surveillance efforts at both the national and the international level.

The BWDS board wants to express its thankfulness to all the Belgian and European speakers and to anybody who cooperated frontstage and backstage to the success of these three days of meetings. The attendants to the 3rd BWDS Symposium will be considered as BWDS members during one year.

Abstracts of the 3rd BWDS Symposium will be put on the BWDS website soon.

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You wanna sail on the Wadden Sea? Go p. 16

OIE Regional Workshop for National Focal Points for Wildlife

Lyon, France, 4–6 November 2009

Dr C. Planté, OIE Sub-Regional Representative in Brussels

This was the first workshop organised for national focal points on wildlife in the European region. The objectives were to (i) explain the importance of wildlife issues, and the need for Veterinary Services (VS) to be actively involved in this domain, (ii) to present the role and activities of OIE with regard to wildlife, the animal health information system, WAHIS, and the improvements on wildlife reporting, standards and support to VS, (iii) to provide information on their role and responsibilities as national focal points in support to OIE Delegates to comply with OIE standards, in particular with regard to the monitoring of wildlife diseases and the provision of animal health information to the OIE on those diseases, as well as to better participate in the standard-setting process, and (iv) to allow for experience sharing in the region.

19 participants from 14 Eastern European countries and 4 EU Member States attended the meeting, most of them being the focal point in their country. The workshop included OIE presentations and more specific ones on wildlife diseases, their impact, epidemiology, monitoring, surveillance and control strategies provided by wildlife experts (see attached agenda).

Presentations on day one and two were given by OIE staff and experts from the French Veterinary School (ENSV) in Lyon. Speakers beneficiated from the pedagogique material provided by the OIE Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Disease Surveillance and Monitoring, Epidemiology and Mangement (Canada); some presentations have already been presented during the similar workshop for America held in Panama from 8 to 10 September 2009.

The President of the European Wildlife Disease Association also gave a very complete and comprehensive presentation on issues of

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EFSA Report: Scientific review on Tuberculosis in wildlife in the EU

Joaquín Vicente[1]

Bovine TB (bTB) has proven difficult to eradicate in livestock, at least in part, because of the persistence of wildlife reservoirs of infection. Recently, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) requested a working group for a concise review dealing with tuberculosis in wildlife in the EU. This report[1] aimed identifying wildlife reservoir hosts, clarifying the factors that may contribute to the role of wildlife in perpetuating bTB in livestock, and reviewing control measures, which will help in the design of large-scale strategic approaches and implementation of targeted control to reduce infection transmission.

Badgers are the best-understood wildlife reservoir for bTB in Europe, but although their role in disease dynamics is relatively well understood, management remains challenging, because of the risks of disrupting social stability and increasing disease transmission. Outside of Britain and Ireland, knowledge of badger populations and of their role in disease is relatively scant. Wild boar are highly susceptible to infection and can reach high prevalence, particularly in parts of the Iberian peninsula, where boar are

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Tab. I: To provide a general and accessible synthesis of the state of knowledge, the EFSA report addressed 10 key questions.

1. What problems are caused by bTB in wildlife?
2. What is the prevalence of bTB in wildlife?
3. What methods allow us to detect bTB in wild animals?
4. How do we monitor bTB in wildlife?
5. What is the evidence of transmission of bTB from wildlife to livestock?
6. Which wildlife hosts are important and what do we know about their populations?
7. How can culling wildlife contribute to bTB control?
8. What are the prospects for vaccinating wildlife?
9. What other options are there for bTB control in wildlife?
10. What are the important unknowns?

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maintenance hosts. With localised exceptions, in most cases, deer are thought to be spill-over, end hosts. Few other species seems to be significant bTB hosts in terms of the risks they present to livestock. Culling is generally problematic for extensive control of disease in wildlife, and the particular ecology of wild animl populations means that can be ineffective and even exacerbate disease. Improving biosecurity represents a good approach to husbandry, but the benefits in terms of reducing disease incidence in livestock have not been evaluated. Vaccination is a promising avenue for bTB control in complex wildlife reservoirs. A large-scale field safety trial of BCG vaccination of badgers is underway in the UK, with a view to large-scale deployment in 201, and the development of oral vaccine for wildlife faces major challenges, and a 5-year programme of work is underway in Britain and Ireland. Similar work is well advanced in boar and may also be appropriate for deer. Co-ordinated surveillance of bTB in wildlife and research efforts across the EU be would be valuable for sharing knowledge and for better understanding and managing bTB in wildlife.

Full report available at:

http://www.efsa.europa.eu/cs/BlobServer/External_Rep/cfp_ahaw_2008_3_final.pdf?ssbinary=true

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Ten reasons why you should join the Wildlife Disease Association

1. Free online access to the Journal of Wildlife Diseases
2. Free paper copy of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases if you wish
3. Contribute to better management of health of wildlife.
4. Access to contact information of world members in wildlife health
5. Reduced registration fees at meetings.
6. Access to student scholarship and awards.
7. Free access to programs and abstracts of recent meetings.
8. Free online research alerts on papers appearing in over 1000 journals.
9. Free online access to papers from over 1000 journals when cited in Journal of Wildlife Diseasespapers.
10. Contribute collectively to electronic distribution of information on health of wildlife free of charge to more than 110 less economically developed countries.

To Join the WDA

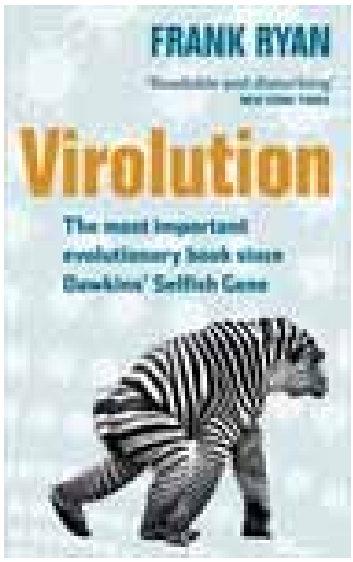
Please print out the Membership Form and return to WDA Business Office or go to the On-Line Business Site

New Book:

Frank RYAN (2009) *Virolution*. Collins, London, 390p.

ISBN 978 0 00 731512 3.

http://www.harpercollins.com.au/books/9780007315123/Virolution/index.aspx



The subtitle says : “The most important evolutionary book since Dawkin’s Selfish Gene”, the illustration on the cover shows a chimpanzee with a zebra dressing and I first saw the book during Summer 2009 in a large international airport bookshop close to books dedicated to a recently gone very popular popstar ! However, the most interesting thing is still to come : the content of the book itself. For me, a very refreshing and stimulating reading about evolution with quite a new approach, mixing different fields of biology, from genomic, virology, epidemiology but also up to conservation. It does start with comments on what may be viruses, most of the time forgotten in “Life Trees” as nobody knows what to do with them. The discovey that at least 10% of the human genome are in fact HERVs, ie “human endogenous retroviruses” is a little confusing. Who are we when you add (or withdraw, as you like) the mitochondria with are already symbionts and all “our” bacteria ? Symbiosis is in fact an important word in the book. So, one of the idea is to look at evolution using not only the Darwinian way but also a more horizontal one. There is phylogeny, but maybe not only. It may have started with RNA viruses, followed by DNA viruses, Mimivirues and Mamaviruses, these last one having already there own tiny viruses, then the first cell and so on. But from the very beginning, viruses may have been present in all other genomes and are not always to be seen as parasites. They are usefull ! In this view, viral diseases, epidemics, epizootics are just instabilities on the way to new symbiosis. Be patient and take time to read it to make up your own mind.

François MOUTOU, Afssa – Lerpaz, Maisons-Alfort, France. f.moutou@afssa.fr

(OIE workshop, follows from page 10)

particular interest to Europe. Around half a day was dedicated to activities, conducetd by three working groups, to discuss the current situation in the region with regard to the organisation of surveillance activities, data collection, reporting, communication and the possible way forward to improve the knowledge and reporting of wildlife diseases.

Documents

A folder and CD-ROM with all presentations were distributed to the participants.

They are also soon be posted on the regional website:

(http://www.oie.int/RR-Europe/eng/events/en_sem.htm)

Student corner

The EWDA Student Chapter offers tools and organizes events to fulfill this objective. Yet it depends on your contribution to remain lively, up-to-date, and rolling!

The EWDA Student Chapter strives at being an interactive venue to facilitate exchanges and we have made it easier than ever to have you contribute easily right here, right now!

- Join the EWDA Discussion List with one click and post messages (conference announcements, job and fellowship opportunities, latest news from the field, or any question/idea you have relating to disease ecology) by simply sending an email to EWDA_discussion@yahoogroups.com!

- Post references of exciting scientific publications on the EWDA Electronic Journal Club by simply sending them by email to ewdastudent.blogger@blogger.com!

- List the amazing mentors you know on the EWDA Mentor Network by simply clicking on this link, and directly entering the information there!

- NEW!! Join the EWDA Student Chapter Facebook Community and keep in touch with other disease ecology enthusiats!

- NEW!! Once you are part of the EWDA Student Chapter Facebook Community, use the EWDA Student Chapter CV Depository and post a link to your CV, so that disease ecology professionals on the look-out for new students or post-doctoral associates can find you!

This a the beta version and we need your input to make it have a head of a start.

Once enough CVs are in reach, we'll spread the word about one of EWDA Student Chapter's hottest tool!

Wading birds on the coast of Vlieland. Cf. p.16

A single contribution from every single EWDA Student Chapter member can do it all!

And to add even more fun, the EWDA Student Chapter will offer a place at next EWDA Student Workshop (waived registration fee and paid accommodation costs) to two EWDA Student Chapter Members who contributed most to the EWDA Student Chapter Tools!!

Let's make the EWDA Student Chapter roll!

The EWDA Student Chapter Board '08-10

EWDA Conference Scientific Programme

More details on next page ../..

The first day of the scientific programme will highlight the bridge between public health and wildlife health by inviting representatives from both areas of research. This will include a public debate between wildlife disease experts and public health representatives. Of course, there also will be plenty of room for oral presentations from selected abstracts on a wide variety of subjects.

Workshops planned on the 13th of September:

-Novel epidemiological tools for the surveillance of wildlife diseases (organizer: Eva Warns-Petit)

-Wildlife forensics: tools and applications.
(organizer: Marie-Pierre Ryser)

-Bovine tuberculosis in wildlife: what's new? (organizers: Pauline Nol and Dolores Gavier-Widen)

-Rodent-borne viruses (Organizers: Paul Heyman and Heikki Henttonen

-Modelling of infectious diseases (organizer: Hans Heesterbeek)

-Bat diseases (organizer: Wim van der Poel)

-Student workshop Designing/Writing/Talking Science (by Christian Gortazar)

The Organizing Committee consists of Mieke Backers, Lineke Begeman, Joke van der Giessen, Andrea Gröne, Miel Hovius, Marion Koopmans, Thijs Kuiken (Chair), Merel Langelaar, Miriam Maas, Margriet Montizaan, Wim van der Poel, Leslie Reperant, and Josanne Verhagen.

The Scientific Committee consists of (International): Richard Delahay, United Kingdom; Dolores Gavier-Widen, Sweden; Christian Gortazar, Spain; Paul Heyman, Belgium; Oliver Krone, Germany; Nina Marano, United States; Tony Sainsbury, United Kingdom; and (The Netherlands) Joke van der Giessen, Andrea Gröne, Menno de Jong, Marion Koopmans (Chair), Thijs Kuiken, Albert Osterhaus, Wim van der Poel, and Jim van Steenbergen.

Village of Oost-Vlieland

Thijs Kuiken

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Hotel Seeduyn, the conference centre

EWDA CONFERENCE, VLIELAND, 13 /16 Sept. 2010

The ninth EWDA conference will be held from 13 to 16 September 2010, on the Dutch island of Vlieland. For the latest information, look at http://www.ewda-2010.nl/

Vlieland is a sparsely populated island of 12 x 2 km that lies between the North Sea and the Wadden Sea. The Wadden Sea is famous for its rich flora and fauna, and is a major stopover location for migrating waterbirds, which will be present in large numbers at the time of the conference. In 2009, the Wadden Sea was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list. Its landscape is made up of dunes, salt meadows, mud flats, beaches, polders and forests. Cars are forbidden except for the islanders, but the island is best explored by bicycle anyway.

The conference will be held at Strandhotel Seeduyn, which is located on the sea dunes overlooking the North Sea, immediately beside the beach. Everywhere in the hotel you can enjoy fantastic views across the North Sea. The charming village of Oost-Vlieland is not even a kilometre away, and the bus to and from the ferry stops right by the hotel entrance. Many cycle and footpaths start in front of Strandhotel Seeduyn.

The main theme of the conference is "**Healthy wildlife, healthy people**." 75% of human emerging infectious diseases arise from animals, and mainly wild animals. To address this theme, we are inviting various medical researchers and public health specialists to this wildlife disease meeting to directly explore the interface between wildlife and public health., this meeting willof interest for people from a variety of disciplines, including public health professionals, wildlife disease specialists, ecologists, biologists and epidemiologists.

Besides science, there also will be the opportunity to enjoy the island on the free afternoon and post-conference activities. These include bird watching, a trip by truck to the sandbanks, horseback riding, horse cart riding, and sailing on a traditional Dutch barge.

EWDA bulletin www.ewda.org

A non per reviewed publication of the European section of the Wildlife disease association. None of the articles in this bulletin should be mentioned as scientific publication.

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- 31 December 2009