

## **Presenter Abstracts and Bios**

### **Curtis Eng, *Intro to Decision-Making Ethics in Wildlife Medicine Roundtable***

Presentation Abstract: This roundtable is an introduction to the domains of values, moral reasoning, and ethics when making decisions about wildlife medicine and outcomes that new rehabbers will face. The field of wildlife medicine is just beginning to identify its moral values and reasoning. In this discussion, I will present a series of real-life cases that had a variety of potential outcomes in order to facilitate an exploration of what the moral and ethical implications of each decision could be. Participants will be expected to share their mental process when given each scenario that leads them to come to some decision of right or wrong in medical decision making, particularly when to treat and when to euthanize. The greatest benefit will be to rehabbers newer to the field and those who want to explore and exercise their critical thinking skills as they consider various implications of giving excellent care consistent with a positive medical ethic.

Presenter Bio: Dr. Curtis Eng graduated from Purdue University and spent a large part of his career in zoo medicine before trading his “walk on the wild side” for a calmer stroll as an associate veterinarian at the Exotic Animal Veterinary Center and Director of Clinical Relations at Western University School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Eng has a special interest in reptiles and avian species.

### **Duane Tom, *UC Davis: Wildlife Disaster Network Talk and Discussion***

Presentation Abstract: The Wildlife Disaster Network is a partnership between the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. It aims to quickly and efficiently mobilize the people and resources needed to aid wildlife affected by wildfire and other disasters through reconnaissance, recovery and rehabilitation. Last year was our inaugural year to aid wildlife affected by the severity of wildfires in California.

Presenter Bio: After completing his DVM at The Ohio State University and a small animal rotating internship at Animal Surgical and Emergency Center in Los Angeles, Dr. Tom took a position as Director of Animal Care at the California Wildlife Center in Calabasas for 12 years. After leaving CWC, he did volunteer veterinary work at other wildlife rehabilitation facilities along the West Coast, Hawaii, and in Belize. He is currently the Field Veterinarian with the Oiled Wildlife Care Network at UC Davis.

### **Gillian Martin, *How to Prevent Harm to Nesting Birds***

Presentation Abstract: Did you know that the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture has adopted best management practices to reduce impact on nesting birds? Gillian Martin will share how these practices were developed, what they are, and resources for training. She will also provide helpful information and guidance for the public when engaging with tree care workers in situations where wildlife conflicts exist.

Presenter Bio: Gillian Martin is a passionate voice for birds, and more recently for trees. She is a co-leader of the Tree Care for Birds and other Wildlife Program of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Simultaneously and not accidentally, she is Director of the Cavity Conservation Initiative in southern California whose mission is to promote the safe retention of dead trees

to enhance urban forest diversity. A study of bird biology and environmental issues has filled the past 18 years. Her articles have been published in several journals and newsletters including Arborist News, the Western Arborist, the Society of Commercial Arboriculture Today and Tree Care Industry Magazine.

**Kit Lacy, *Selection Process for Non-Releasable Raptors: The First Set in Bird Welfare***

Presentation Abstract: The selection of ambassador animals coming out of wildlife rehabilitation facilities is an evolving process as information grows regarding long-term physical impacts of disabilities on an animal's quality of life. Ambassador animal welfare traditionally addressed nourishment, length of life, and physical safety while in human care. More facilities are now focusing on cognitive well-being, including examining if individuals are free from pain, fear, and distress as a measure of welfare. And, as more trainers are adopting choice-based training methods using the least number of aversive stimuli possible, bird selection is the first step in the welfare process. Cascades Raptor Center has developed rigorous criteria for all birds before they are added to our team. Data collected from wellness monitoring of our current bird collection coupled with nearly 30 years of comprehensive necropsy reports have provided information indicating that many disabilities that result in non-releasable status also preclude individuals from having a high quality of life in human care. Setting an ambassador animal up for a successful life in human care begins with appropriate, well considered selection.

Presenter Bio: Kit Lacy is the Bird Curator at Cascades Raptor Center, located in Eugene, OR. Kit completed a master's degree in biology from the University of Oregon, publishing papers on social behavior and communication in Caribbean Iguanas. Kit began volunteering at Cascades Raptor Center while also teaching college biology. After a major career shift and many years at the center, she now oversees both the ambassador animal collection and rehabilitation cases at Cascades. Kit is passionate about improving the quality of life for all raptors in human care through positive reinforcement training. She has been a board member of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators (IAATE) since 2013 and is currently President-elect. She has presented papers on raptor training and raptor wellness programs, leads workshops and webinars, acts as a mentor to other trainers, consults with facilities regarding transitioning to choice-based training, and has presented on Cascades' criteria for selection of non-releasable raptors for ambassadors for many facilities.

**Lizzy Chouinard, *Introduction to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Birds of the World- Practical Uses in Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education***

Presentation Abstract: The Cornell Lab of Ornithology's online encyclopedia of all the birds of the world is a tremendous resource not to be missed. In this talk we'll learn what it does, how to use it, and practical applications both in the wildlife rehabilitation setting and when presenting avian wildlife to the public.

Presenter Bio: Lizzy Chouinard is a former staff member and current board member at the Ojai Raptor Center. Lizzy has a background in raptor rehabilitation, wildlife education, and fundraising and development; and is currently focused on conservation through education, data collection from individual birds, and land restoration. Favorite bird: Red-tailed Hawk.

**Maria Pyrdek, *Building Bridges Between Wildlife Rehabilitators and General Practice Veterinarians and The 60-Second Necropsy for the Busy Rehabber and Wildlife Emergencies- Applying Consistent Questions for In-Field Triage***

Presentation Abstract: ***Building Bridges Between Wildlife Rehabilitators and General Practice***

***Veterinarians-*** Building solid symbiotic relationships with veterinarians in your area is critical (and a legal requirement) to wildlife rehabilitation. But, do you ever feel those veterinarians don't know a thing about wildlife and just do everything wrong?!?! And worse, they won't even listen to what you say. Dr. Maria Pyrdek has worked in many areas of wildlife rehabilitation from the lone home rehabber to the wildlife center to the veterinarian at a busy general practice down the street. She's felt the pain of watching veterinarians post photos of fawns watching television on the couch. She also knows what it is like to work in a busy animal hospital. This session will seek to discuss real ways to reach out and start building relationships with the veterinarians in your area. In particular to be discussed will be documents published soon by the The Humane Animal Support wildlife working group to address the gap in care for wildlife and how these documents might be used as a starting point to build relationships.

Presentation Abstract: ***The 60-Second Necropsy for the Busy Rehabber-*** Understanding and confirming why our patients have died is critical to becoming a better care provider for future patients. In a busy wildlife setting, it is easy to make assumptions without evidence and move onto the next patient. However, confirming your physical exam findings or a cause of death is critical to improving the care of the next patient. This lecture will seek to provide wildlife rehabilitators with the understanding, skill and confidence to perform a necropsy on their own patients after they have passed and discuss ways to apply this knowledge to improve future care. Both small mammal and small avian necropsy techniques, basic anatomy and common abnormal findings will be discussed.

\*\*Please note, the type of necropsy being discussed is not a replacement for sending animals of interest to CA Fish and Wildlife, but rather for smaller patients such as squirrels/rabbits/passerines that are treated on a regular basis.

Presentation Abstract: ***Wildlife Emergencies- Applying Consistent Questions for In-Field Triage-***

This case-based lecture is geared toward the new wildlife volunteer, wildlife phone volunteer, general public, or new rehabber training volunteers to find a consistent way of determining when to admit or not admit an animal. How do you assess quickly and efficiently whether to admit an animal? How do you communicate this to the public? What if the animal is already at your center? How can we empower and educate the public to better assess a case the next time? This talk will use real life cases to develop and build confidence to deal with common cases faced by urban wildlife rehabilitators.

Presenter Bio: Dr. Maria Pyrdek has always had a passion for working with and teaching others about wildlife. During her professional life she has worked across many areas of animal care, always prioritizing education and animal care. Prior to becoming a veterinarian, she worked as the Assistant Director and lead wildlife rehabilitator at the Animal Rescue League Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Verona, PA for 6 years. Dr. Pyrdek then attended Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in Basseterre, St. Kitts. During this time, she was involved with the St. Kitts Sea Turtle Project, The Tern Nest Counting Project and local wildlife rehabilitation. After graduation, she worked in corporate and private general practice and volunteered with local wildlife centers. In 2019, she started her current position as a veterinarian at Pasadena Humane, a large privately owned shelter in Pasadena, CA. Dr. Pyrdek works extensively with the wildlife department to provide quality care to California urban wildlife. She is passionate about working to provide quality, evidenced based medical care to all animals, regardless of whether they are in the non profit or private sector. She loves collaborating with teams to come up with creative ways to solve problems and utilize resources in new ways. Her experience across both the not for profit domestic shelter and wildlife rehabilitation as well as a corporate veterinary world provides her with a unique perspective on the strengths and unique challenges of many areas of veterinary medicine.

## **Renee Schott, *Anesthesia for Urban Wildlife and Welfare in Wildlife Rehab***

Presentation Abstract: **Anesthesia for Urban Wildlife-** Urban wildlife may present to the wildlife rehabilitator for a variety of reasons. Often the rehabilitator must work with their veterinarian, as anesthesia is needed for minor procedures, radiographs, or surgeries. This interactive, case-based lecture will go over several species of common urban wildlife (cottontail rabbit, grey squirrel, mallard duck, songbird, opossum, snapping turtle, and others), and present the common drugs, doses and methods used for successful anesthesia.

Presentation Abstract: **Welfare in Wildlife Rehab** - Animal welfare is an important consideration when rehabilitating wildlife. Wildlife in captivity are always stressed and the negative effects of stress are well known. It is paramount that the rehabilitator and the veterinarian understand ways to decrease stress as much as possible. This presentation will briefly cover the basics of animal welfare, then cover the causes of stress in wildlife undergoing rehabilitation, what we can do to mitigate those stressors and finally the ethical implications of caring for wildlife in a rehabilitation setting. This interactive presentation will simplify animal welfare concepts into tangible tools to take back to your practice.

Presenter Bio: Renée is currently the Medical Director at the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center of Minnesota (WRCMN), one of the largest rehabilitation centers in the world. She has been involved in wildlife rehabilitation for over 17 years and has worked at WRCMN for almost 12 years. Additionally, Renée teaches at wildlife and veterinary conferences all over the country, is involved in teaching courses at the University of Minnesota-College of Veterinary Medicine, is a Course Instructor for the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, is a former board member of National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association's Board of Directors, and does relief work at the MN Zoo.

## **Rosemary Mosco, *Comics for the Birds***

Presentation Abstract: Join Bird and Moon Comics creator and science book author Rosemary Mosco for a funny, inspirational talk about her nature cartoons and the wildlife that inspire them. She'll share the winding story of her career journey, explain why humor and art are useful tools for protecting wildlife, and discuss the inspirations behind some of her cartoons.

Presenter Bio: Rosemary Mosco makes books and cartoons that connect people with the natural world. Her Bird and Moon nature comics were the subject of an award-winning museum exhibit and are collected in a book that's a 2019 ALA Great Graphic Novel for Teens. She co-wrote The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid, a NYT Best Seller. She speaks at birding festivals and writes for the PBS kids' show Elinor Wonders Why. She's represented by Seth Fishman. Her favorite glacial landform is the esker.

## **Stephany Lewis, *Introduction to Avian Orthopedics***

Presentation Abstract: This lecture will cover an introduction to avian orthopedics, geared towards the wildlife rehabilitator. We will discuss triaging and prognosticating different types of avian fractures, the basics of treating different fracture types, and when to involve your veterinarian. This lecture will also cover the basics of bone healing, physical therapy, and will touch on analgesia options in avian species.

Presenter Bio: Stephany Lewis earned her BS in Biology from the University of Pennsylvania and her DVM from Tufts University in 2015. Following veterinary school, she completed a rotating internship in small animal medicine and surgery at Michigan State University, then a 1-year wildlife medicine internship at Tufts Wildlife Clinic. She practiced in small animal emergency and exotic pet medicine before moving to California to be the full-time veterinarian at California Wildlife Center, a wildlife rehabilitation center that sees over 4,000 native wildlife of Southern California each year. She is currently the veterinarian at Ojai Raptor Center, which treats over 1200 animals each year and specializes in native birds of prey. Her professional interests include analgesia of non-domestic species, avian orthopedics, and avian ophthalmology.

### **Veronica Bowers, *Wildscaping and Virtual Tour of Hospital and Gardens***

Presentation Abstract: Wildscaping with native plants can turn a patchwork of green spaces into a quilt of restored habitat. More native plants means more choices of food and shelter for native birds, native pollinators and other wildlife. Landscaped with native species, a garden space becomes a vital recharge station for migratory birds passing through and a sanctuary for nesting and overwintering birds. This presentation will help the rehabilitator learn how to support songbirds and biodiversity in their own backyard, the property of their facility and green spaces in their surrounding community. Information and ideas will be shared to help inspire communities to support songbirds and biodiversity by using native plants and bird-friendly gardening practices. Enjoy a virtual tour of Native Songbird Care and Conservation and its beautiful gardens.

Presenter Bio: Veronica Bowers is the director and founder of Native Songbird Care and Conservation (NSCC). The facility cares for approximately 1,000 songbirds of 70+ species each year. Since 1999, Veronica has been working exclusively with songbirds. In addition to the day-to-day operations of the wildlife hospital, Veronica is also a passionate gardener. To further the conservation efforts of NSCC, Veronica created the Songbird Sanctuary Habitat Gardens on the grounds of the facility. The gardens include 2 acres of songbird habitat, comprised primarily of native plants, which support approximately 90 species of songbirds throughout the year and over 30 species of nesting songbirds during spring and summer.

### **Vickie Joseph, *Golden Eagle Rehabilitation: Techniques to Increase Survivability and Increasing Prevalence of Serratospiculum sp. in the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) Arriving to Rehabilitation Centers***

Presentation Abstract: ***Golden Eagle Rehabilitation: Techniques to Increase Survivability-*** The Committee for Eagle Rehabilitation Excellence (CERE) has been established to address the specific needs of the Golden Eagle entering raptor rehabilitation centers. Identifying the behavioral differences between the Bald and Golden Eagle, classification of eagle age groups and their behavior, and how rehabilitation techniques currently available do not fully address the needs of the golden eagle will be presented. Recommendations are made for medical evaluation, husbandry, conditioning requirements and release techniques for each defined age group to enhance their chance of survival once released back to the wild. A scientific database for conditioning to monitor the eagles' progress has been established and will serve as guidelines to determine if and when the eagle in training is suitable for release. A long term surveillance program for survivability has also been established once the eagle is released to the wild.

Presentation Abstract: ***Increasing Prevalence of Serratospiculum sp. in the Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus) Arriving to Rehabilitation Centers-*** Serratospiculum sp., commonly known as the air sac worm, has long been identified in wild Prairie falcons (*Falco mexicanus*). Recently, there has been an increase of Serratospiculum sp. identified in wild Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) arriving to rehabilitation centers. The falcons may show signs of respiratory distress, cough, low endurance and unthrifty appearance. In most instances, radiographs and endoscopy of the air sacs is required for a definitive diagnosis. This presentation will focus on medical diagnostics and therapy programs to successfully treat this parasite and enable the falcon to be returned to the wild.

Presenter Bio: Vickie Joseph DVM, Dip. ABVP/Avian chairs the Committee for Eagle Rehabilitation Excellence. Dr. Joseph is also the director of Clinical Avian Pathology Services (CAPS), dedicated to bird of prey health. Actively involved with veterinary medicine, Dr. Joseph consults for the Bird and Pet Clinic of Roseville and chairs the Bird of Prey Health Group, a nonprofit specializing in raptor rehabilitation. At the present time, Dr. Joseph is consulting internationally on a falcon project in the middle east.