

ZAHP Update: June 2020

COVID-19 Webinar Announcement, USDA Webinar Recording and More

Webinar Announcement

ZAHP Chat: COVID-19 and the Zoo

Thursday, August 13th, 2020

11:30am – 1pm ET

[Click Here to Register](#)

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, many questions remain unanswered about this emerging disease. Join this webinar with subject matter experts from across the exotic animal industry for an overview of what we currently know about this emerging disease, what we still don't know, and the impact on zoological facilities. Speakers will be going over disease pathology, species susceptibility, testing recommendations, the importance of One Health, and more!

Speakers:

- Karen Terio, DVM, PhD, Dipl, ACVP, Chief, Zoological Pathology Program - University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
- Paige Brock, DVM, DACZM, Chair, Animal Health & Welfare Committee - American Association of Zoo Veterinarians
- Sharon Deem, DVM, Ph.D, Dipl ACZM, Director - Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine
- Jeanie Lin, DVM, MPH, MLA, VMO and Acting Director, Emergency Programs and Occupational Safety and Health, USDA Animal Care

This webinar is geared towards a broad audience of zoological professionals and will include a live Q&A. Participants are also encouraged to submit questions ahead of time via the provided fields at registration.

Recording & Follow Up: Webinar Discussion with USDA Animal Care

A recording of the July 15th webinar discussion with senior leadership from USDA Animal Care is available to view at the link below. The linked questions lists includes time stamps for when topics were discussed, as well as written answers to follow up questions that were not addressed during the live webinar.

Recording:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6443126452421217547>

Questions list: <https://zahp.aza.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/7.15.2020-USDA-Webinar->

AWA Licensing Rule Website & Videos

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA -APHIS) has launched a new website to help the regulated community and other interested stakeholders understand and implement the new licensing and veterinary

This webinar was organized to answer frequently asked questions from the exhibitor community and identify areas where additional clarity is needed regarding: 1) recent changes to Animal Welfare Act licensing requirements; 2) the status of USDA-mandated contingency plans; 3) the possibility of future inspections of birds and bird facilities; and 4) what the USDA Animal Care Office might look like in a post COVID-19 world.

Is Your Facility Ready to Respond to a 'Disaster Within a Disaster'?

While the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to challenge the exotic animal industry in many ways, we must not forget that other incidents or disasters may occur at this challenging time. North America is in the midst of hurricane season, and thunderstorms and other events are daily occurrences across the country. These incidents don't stop, just because we are responding to the coronavirus crisis. Is your facility ready to respond to a 'disaster within a disaster'?

Now is an ideal time to pull out your contingency plans and review them **completely** for any changes and updates that need to be made during this pandemic. Consider the following changes that facilities may need to consider:

- What is the current capacity for your storm shelters?
 - Are you able to practice social distancing within these shelters, even short term?
 - Is there a supply of PPE currently housed in the storm shelters for guests who may not have a mask?
- What are the implications for 'ride out' teams? For those individuals that are assigned to stay on site for longer term response periods, consider:
 - Are you able to reduce the number of employees that make up your teams
 - What adjustments in terms of cross training can be accomplished?
 - Have you lost valuable team members either through lay-offs, furloughs, or attrition?
 - Have you considered who would back fill those unique team positions?
 - Do your plans identify by name or job description, the roles one would play on a ride out team, and do those individuals or positions still exist within your organization?
 - If a team is housed on grounds, how can that be done safely?
 - Rather than group barracks type housing, can an office building be used to allow for proper social distancing and isolation of team members?
 - Will team members require any additional cleaning and disinfection training to operate safely at this time?

There are many challenges that the industry is facing at this time. It is recommended to review all aspects of your contingency plans and adjust accordingly just in case you experience a 'disaster within a disaster'.