

ZAHF Update: September 2020

ZAHF Chat recording and resources, COVET Study, and More!

ZAHF Chat: COVID-19 and the Zoo (recording)

This webinar was recorded on August 13th

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. This webinar is geared towards a broad audience of zoological professionals.

[Click here to view a recording of this session.](#)

[Slides resources, and references from this section are available here.](#)

Topics and speakers:

- SARS-CoV-2 in Animals - *Karen Terio, DVM, PhD, Dipl, ACVP, Chief, Zoological Pathology Program - University of Illinois Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory*
- COVID-19 Species Susceptibility - *Paige Brock, DVM, DACZM, Chair, Animal Health & Welfare Committee - American Association of Zoo Veterinarians*
- One Health Opportunities for the Zoo Community During COVID and in a 'Post-Pandemic' World - *Sharon Deem, DVM, Ph.D, Dipl ACZM, Director - Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine*
- CDC COVID-19 One Health Working Group: Zoo and Wildlife Subgroup - *Jeanie Lin, DVM, MPH, MLA, VMO and Acting Director, Emergency Programs and Occupational Safety and Health, USDA Animal Care*

Moderated by Yvonne Nadler, DVM, MPH, Senior Veterinary Advisor - ZAHF Fusion Center.

USDA APHIS Virtual Listening Sessions

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) recently announced that they are seeking public input on regulations regarding the welfare of birds not bred for use in research. [Click here to view the full announcement.](#)

APHIS will be holding three listening sessions to gather information to assist in the development of regulations that will ensure the humane care and treatment of birds not bred for use in research, consistent with the Animal Welfare Act (AWA).

These virtual sessions will be held:

The COVET Study

Researchers at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health are collecting opinions from veterinary and animal care workers on disaster preparedness related to the COVID-19 pandemic, with the goal to develop and maintain a resilient animal care workforce capable of responding to this and future crisis situations.

Veterinary or animal care workers at a zoo or wildlife facilities that are interested in participating in this study can complete the

- Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT);
- Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. EDT; and
- Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. EDT.

To register for the listening sessions and learn more about the comment process, please visit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalwelfare/aw-news/bird-listening-sessions>.

questionnaire here:

www.tinyurl.com/covetstudy.

Additional details about this study are available on the project website, <https://ehc.jhu.edu/research/covet>. Questions about the COVET study can be directed to covet@jhu.edu.

National Preparedness Month

September is [National Preparedness Month](#) (NPM), and this year's theme is "Disasters Don't Wait, Make Your Plan Today". Consider making time this month to review and update your facility's plans, and visit ready.gov/business for resources and toolkits to help you prepare for a variety of disasters.



It's also important to review plans at home. Visit the NPM page for additional information and resources to help your family:

- [Make a Plan](#)
- [Build a Kit](#)
- [Prepare for Disasters](#)
- [Teach Youth About Preparedness](#)

Considerations for the Management of Non-Domestic Species in Human Care During COVID-19

We continue to update the *Considerations for the Management of Non-Domestic Species in Human Care During COVID-19* on our website; available at <https://zahp.aza.org/covid-19-animal-care/>.

Please remember that these are intended to be considerations only; any actions taken by your facility should be based on a thorough risk assessment of your collection, protocols, location, and other factors that increase or decrease the risk of disease.

Additional information about how to conduct a risk assessment on your facility can be found in Secure Zoo Strategy: <https://securezoostrategy.org/step-3-risk-assessment-facility/>.