



National Wildlife Health Center
Wildlife Health Bulletin 2013-05

USGS National Wildlife Health Center Wildlife Diagnostic Services

To: Natural Resource/Conservation Managers
From: Dr. Jonathan Sleeman, Center Director, USGS National Wildlife Health Center
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Wildlife diseases and associated mortality events can be highly visible, garner significant public attention and have substantial impacts on wildlife populations. Some of these diseases can also potentially affect the health of domestic animals and humans. Investigating wildlife morbidity and mortality events provides science-based determination of the cause of death and is critical for discovery and characterization of new, emerging threats to wildlife health. Diagnostic investigations are also critical for the development of assays to detect these new pathogens and the assessment of the risks. The ultimate goal is to assist natural resource agencies in identifying management actions to lessen potential impacts on wildlife populations.

The USGS National Wildlife Health Center (NWHC) provides diagnostic services to federal, state and tribal natural resource partners, free of charge, to help investigate, understand and manage unusual morbidity and mortality events. A summary of the diagnostic services we provide is available on our [website](#).

To submit diagnostic samples to the NWHC, please first contact the appropriate person for your geographic region listed below. The NWHC only accepts submissions from state, federal and tribal natural resource and governmental agencies. Submissions from the public, rehabilitation facilities, universities, laboratories or other entities are not accepted without prior consultation with appropriate federal, state or tribal agency. In general, the NWHC only accepts free-living wildlife for examination and generally does not accept rehabilitated or captive wildlife. If you have any questions please consult with the appropriate contact person, and if the NWHC cannot assist with the investigation, we will refer you to another diagnostic laboratory that may be able to assist.

Useful Links:

[NWHC Diagnostic Services](#)
[Guidelines for Diagnostic Case Submission](#)
[Instructions for Reporting Wildlife Mortality Events](#)
[Submission Form](#)

Contact Information ([see map of states by region](#)):

Western states: Barb Bodenstein, 608-270-2447, bbodenstein@usgs.gov
Central states: LeAnn White, 608-270-2491, clwhite@usgs.gov
Eastern states: Anne Ballmann, 608-270-2445, aballmann@usgs.gov
Hawaii and Pacific Islands: Thierry Work, 808-792-9520, thierry_work@usgs.gov
Single animal mortalities: Jennifer Buckner, 608-270-2443, jbuckner@usgs.gov

To see past Wildlife Health Bulletins, click [here](#).

WILDLIFE HEALTH BULLETINS are distributed to natural resource/conservation agencies to provide and promote information exchange about significant wildlife health threats. If you would like to be added to or removed from the mailing list for these bulletins, please contact Gail Moede Rogall at 608-270-2438 or e-mail: nwhc-outreach@usgs.gov.