

*Edited by
Connie Orcutt, DVM, Dip. ABVP (Avian; Exotic
Companion Mammal)*



SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AVIAN, HERPETOLOGICAL, AND EXOTIC MAMMAL MEDICINE

The Second International Conference on Avian, Herpetological, and Exotic Mammal Medicine will be held in Paris from April 18 to 23, 2015. The conference is organized jointly by the European College of Zoological Medicine, the Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians, the European Association of Avian Veterinarians, and the Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians. The weekend of April 18th and 19th will be dedicated to master classes, workshops, and conferences on the health of wildlife populations. The first 2 days of the conference, April 18th and 19th, will be held at the National Veterinary School of Alfort located near Paris. The general program, from April 20 to 23, will be held at the Conference Center of the Parc de la Villette in central Paris. More information can be found at the conference website: <http://www.icare2015.eu/>.

VETERINARY MEDICINE MOBILITY ACT SIGNED INTO LAW

On August 1, 2014, President Obama signed the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, which legalizes transport of controlled substances by veterinarians beyond their registered locations. Both chambers of Congress were unanimous in their passage of the act.

In amending the Controlled Substance Act, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act allows veterinarians to transport drugs necessary to manage pain, anesthetize, or euthanize animals, provided the veterinarian is licensed to practice and is registered with the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Previously, the DEA barred veterinarians from transporting, dispensing, and administering controlled drugs in locations other than the site where they were specifically registered to handle the drugs. The revised Controlled Substance Act allows veterinary practitioners to transport and administer controlled substances on house calls, when providing care in rural areas, and during emergency field responses.

Veterinarians who have questions regarding compliance with the updated regulations are encouraged to contact the Diversion Control Program Manager at their respective DEA field offices.

DEMAND FOR CHEETAHS AS LUXURY PETS INCREASES RISK OF EXTINCTION

New research shows that increased trade in cheetahs as luxury pets in the Middle East is increasing the risk of extinction of critical populations of these wild cats. The report also details how up to two-thirds of the cheetah cubs illegally smuggled across the war-ravaged Horn of Africa die during transport.

Cheetah populations have already decreased by about 90% over the last century because of agricultural land expansion. The global population of wild cheetahs now stands at 10,000 and continues to decline. In ancient traditions, cheetahs were trained as hunting animals for royal families. Cheetahs are uncommonly easy to tame, especially as cubs, thus stimulating the demand for cheetahs as status-symbol pets in the Gulf States. In addition, cheetah skin shoes are in demand in the Sudan, where they are considered high-status items.

The report was compiled for the Convention on the Trade in Endangered Species and provides the first comprehensive overview of the cheetah trade. According to Nick Mitchell, eastern African coordinator of the Rangewide Conservation Programme for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs, a joint project of the Zoological Society of London and the Wildlife Conservation Society, and one of the contributors to the report, "If we do not act now on the trade and land-use change, then we can be certainly losing subpopulations in a few years."

Although cheetahs may be easy to tame, they do not breed easily in captivity; therefore, the Gulf pet trade is fed by supplying wild-caught animals from the Horn of Africa where a distinct cheetah subspecies numbers only 2500. Captured animals are trafficked by boat from Somalia to Yemen, then by road to the Gulf States. Thirty cubs may be captured at a time, with 50% to 70% often dying en route.

The cheetah subspecies in Iran, comprising 40 to 100 individuals, is at even greater risk and is also presumed to be victimized by the pet trade. In north and west Africa, severely threatened subspecies are fewer than 250 in number. This population is primarily at risk from demand for clothing and for bones and other body parts for use in traditional medicine and magic rituals.

The largest cheetah population is in southern Africa and numbers 6200 animals. The biggest threat in this region is trophy hunting, which is allowed in Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe and claims more than 200 cheetahs annually. Every year, about 90 captive-bred cheetahs are legally exported to zoos; however, there is concern that animals illegally captured are among this number.

TOXIC TOADS ARE AN ECOLOGICAL THREAT FOR MADAGASCAR

An invasion of the toxic Asian common toad (*Duttaphrynus melanostictus*) is posing a threat to the unique wildlife of Madagascar. The toads are presumed to have arrived from Asia in shipping containers. Once in Madagascar, they have thrived on the island's optimal resources and climate. The potentially pending ecological disaster is a reminder of the intentional cane toad introduction to Australia in 1935; this misguided project resulted in the foreign species overwhelming native animal populations, with subsequent spread across much of Australia.

The World Wildlife Fund reports that around 95% of Madagascar's reptiles and 92% of its mammals are found nowhere else on earth. The ground boa (*Acrantophis* spp.), one of the species found only in Madagascar, and 50 other species of endemic snakes likely to eat the toxic toads could be threatened. Also at risk are the catlike fossa (*Cryptoprocta ferox*), lemurs, and endemic birds. In addition to poisoning animals that ingest them, the toads may transmit disease to other amphibians and contaminate drinking water and reportedly are a source of parasites able to endanger humans.

At this time, the Asian common toad has not disseminated across Madagascar, but it has been found in relatively close proximity to some internationally important biodiversity hotspots. Moreover, these toads are now known to have dispersed from Madagascar to other islands in the Indian Ocean, such as the Mascarene Islands, Comoros, and Seychelles.

Toxic toads in Madagascar are being collected and removed, and efforts are being made to destroy their spawn (females of the species can lay up to 40,000 eggs per month) and drain ponds to interrupt their breeding while populations are still relatively small.

AVIAN CHLAMYDIOSIS IN ARIZONA FERAL LOVEBIRD POPULATIONS

In August 2014, a homeowner in Scottsdale, AZ, USA, found 20 dead lovebirds in his yard. Subsequently, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) diagnosed avian chlamydiosis as the cause of the bird die-off.

A year previously, in August 2013, the AZGFD was notified of a die-off of 30 feral lovebirds in the East Valley of the Phoenix metropolitan area. The person who reported the die-off later reported having a fever that did not respond to antibiotic treatment. A subsequent investigation by the AZGFD determined that *Chlamydophila psittaci* infection was to blame for the avian deaths and human illness.

Feral flocks of lovebirds in Maricopa County, AZ, hypothesized to have originated from pet birds released from an aviary in the 1980s, nest in untrimmed palm fronds and hollow saguaro cavities, primarily found in residential areas. They feed from backyard bird feeders, palm fruits, cactus fruits, and mesquite and palo verde seeds. During a half-day census in 2011, lovebird sightings mapped within an area of 24 miles in diameter and numbered nearly 950. Accounting for previous reports and sightings not covered in the census, lovebird numbers were estimated to be at least 2500 individuals.

The woman who reported the 2013 lovebird die-off had cleaned up bird droppings from her porch with a leaf blower and had fallen ill approximately 2 weeks later. Her symptoms included a fever of 104°F, chills, headache, chest pain, cough, myalgia, a sore throat, nighttime sweats, fatigue, and tinnitus. She had no response to empiric administration of amoxicillin, but her condition improved after psittacosis was suspected and treatment with doxycycline was initiated.

Less than 50 cases of psittacosis are identified in people annually in the United States and are usually reported in owners of pet birds. The diagnosis may not be considered unless a human case is associated with avian illness or death. After the most recent lovebird die-off, AZGFD officials warned the public that the incubation period for

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/2397005>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/2397005>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)