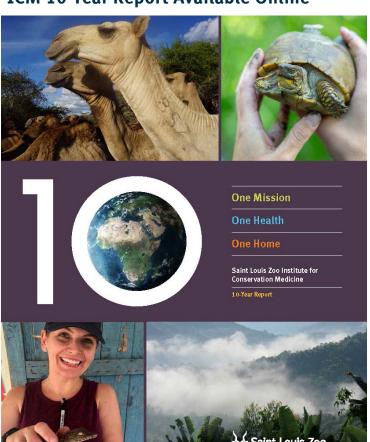
Institute for Conservation Medicine Newsletter

Winter 2021



ICM 10-Year Report Available Online



Our report celebrating 10 years of Institute for Conservation Medicine (ICM) research and outreach hit mailboxes in November! We are very proud of the work that we've accomplished since 2011. This report highlights the variety of our One Health research, ranging from lemurs in Madagascar to giant tortoises in Galapagos, and many species and sites in between. In spite of the ongoing pandemic, we remain optimistic about the future and are excited about the next 10 years of conservation medicine and One Health research and outreach. If you are reading this newsletter, you should

have received your own printed copy in the mail. If you did not, or if you would like additional copies, please contact anyone in ICM, and we will get copies mailed to you right away. If you prefer reading online, a pdf of the full report can be viewed and at stlzoo.org/icm.



New World Canid Conservation Initiative Underway

Dr. Fernando Najera joined the Zoo in August to lead this exciting collaborative initiative to identify and address critical conservation issues involving Missouri canids (free-living species in the dog family), specifically coyote, red fox and gray fox. Wild canids'



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interactions among humans and domestic dogs and cats are major threats to their conservation. Surprisingly little is known about these species in Missouri, especially the grey fox. Through strategic trapping, GPS collars, sample collection and testing for pathogens of conservation concern, we will answer foundational questions about the health of these species. We also will analyze differences in the spatial ecology (land use) of canid species, as well as potential disease risks to more threatened species that may share their habitat in the future, such as the endangered American red wolf.

Those working on this initiative include representatives from the Saint Louis Zoo (Institute for Conservation Medicine; Saint Louis Zoo WildCare Institute; and the Zoo's Carnivore, Animal Health, and Reproductive and Behavioral Sciences Departments), as well as long-time collaborators at the Endangered Wolf Center, Tyson Research Center and Washington University in St. Louis. The first area of focus is Tyson Research Center, where we will study these target species along with the rest of the carnivore guild. Fernando has also been meeting with Drs. Adalsteinsson, Wang and Boon (Washington University in St. Louis) to discuss the logistics of including emerging tick-borne viruses into the canid research.



Outreach and Education



Numerous outreach events, both virtual and in-person, took place during the second half of 2021. One of our favorite events to teach both kids and adults about the natural world are turtle safaris. After a long delay, we were back in action this fall! Groups include classrooms (virtual), members of the public who sign up through the

Zoo's Education Department, and the Zoo Young Professionals group (ZYP). Keri and Maris also are thrilled to reconnect with middle and high school students from the Ferguson-Florissant School District at the Little Creek Nature Area. Turtles are down for the winter, and we're hoping Omicron (or another variant) doesn't prevent outings from staring again in the spring.



One of our other signature educational offerings is the One Health undergraduate course at Washington University in St. Louis, which Sharon and Maris are once again teaching this fall. The word cloud above shows students' perceptions of key One Health concepts after week three of class.

To learn how you can contribute to the work of the ICM, contact Director Sharon Deem at (314) 646-4708 or deem@stlzoo.org.

For more information on the Institute for Conservation Medicine, visit stlzoo.org/icm.

