
Wildlife Networking in a One Health Space

The Australian Wildlife Health Network



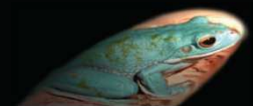
Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Tiggy Grillo



**Australian
Wildlife Health
Network**

Australian Wildlife Health Network



Today

About AWHN

Australia's approach to Wildlife Networking



Australian Wildlife Health Network

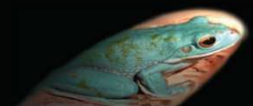




Mission: to promote and facilitate collaborative links in the investigation and management of wildlife health in support of human and animal health, biodiversity and trade



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AWHN KEY BUSINESS OBJECTIVES

1. **Coordinate a network** of wildlife health expertise and resources (including administrative support)
2. Maintain and expand the functionality of a **national database of wildlife health** information (eWHIS) including access through a dedicated web site
3. **Coordinate and monitor** field surveys and/or investigations of disease incidents
4. **Promote** the development of regional and national wildlife health emergency preparedness and response strategies
5. Improve education and training in wildlife health

A NATIONALLY INTEGRATED WILDLIFE HEALTH SYSTEM FOR AUSTRALIA

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AWHN BACKGROUND

- National initiative of the Australian Government
- AWHN is supported by:
 - Australian Government Department of **Agriculture**, Fisheries and Forestry
 - Australian Government Department of **Health** & Ageing
 - Australian Government Department of Sustainability, **Environment**, Water, Population and Communities
 - State & Territory Government Departments
 - Animal Health Australia (**Industry**)
 - Taronga Conservation Society Australia
 - NSW Industry & Investment
 - Wildlife Disease Association- Australasia

AWHN RECOGNISED AS AUSTRALIA'S OIE FOCAL POINT FOR WILDLIFE DISEASE

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AWHN STAFF



Manager:	Rupert Woods
Projects Coordinator:	Tiggy Grillo
Projects Officer:	Keren Cox-Witton
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Magee

- Managed under Wildlife Health and Environment Program, DAFF
- Hosted by Taronga Conservation Society Australia, supported by NSW Department of Industry & Investment, located at Taronga Zoo (Sydney, Australia).

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Who do we network with?

AWHN directly linking > 500 wildlife health professionals

Federal and State Government Departments

- Environment & Conservation
- Agriculture
- Public Health

Non-Government Agencies

- Veterinary Agencies
- Veterinary Laboratories
- Livestock Industries
- Universities
- Zoos
- Private Practitioners
- Wildlife carers
- Hunting industries
- Diagnostics Services

International Wildlife Health Centres & OIE Focal Points for Wildlife

- India
- New Zealand
- Europe
- United States
- Canada
- 28 OIE focal points for wildlife

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How do we network?

AWHN Networks using a unique national approach by both supporting national & international reporting requirements & processes whilst striving to represent the wildlife health community.

AWHN Network mechanisms include:

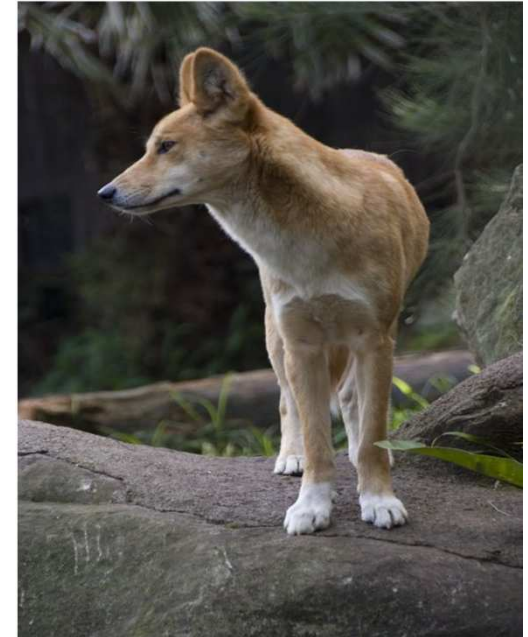
- State & Territory Wildlife Coordinators
- Zoo Coordinators (a Pilot Program)
- AWHN Focus Groups
- Wildlife Disease Incident Communication & Coordination
- Weekly Electronic Wildlife Health Digest

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State & Territory Wildlife Coordinators

- Representatives of their jurisdiction's Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO)
- Monthly Reports on wildlife disease in 6 dedicated categories
- Information is captured & channelled into the National Animal Health System by AWHN via eWHIS
- Supported by **alternate wildlife coordinators**
- Encourage networks within each State/Territory



Wildlife Disease Surveillance

Supports Australia's National Animal Health & Disease Surveillance System

Collect, analyse, disseminate

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Pilot Project of Zoo Coordinators

- Participation by six major Australian zoos
- Collaboration between AWHN & **Zoo and Aquarium Association (ZAA)**
- Monthly Reports on wildlife disease in 6 dedicated categories
- Work with their Wildlife Coordinators
- Further promoting a wildlife network within each State / Territory



Integration of Zoos into the national wildlife health system

Supports Australia's National Animal Health & Disease Surveillance System

**Zoos can make a significant contribution to national
disease surveillance and reporting**

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AWHN Focus Groups

- National Avian Influenza Wild Bird Steering Group
- University Focus Group
- Zoo Animal Health Reference Group
- Devil facial tumour program
- Australian Bat Lyssavirus (ABLV) / Bat Health Focus Group

Image courtesy of Paul O'Neill



Wildlife Disease Communication & Collaboration

Supports Australia's National Animal Health & Disease Surveillance System

**Sound policy decisions require:
Best Scientific Knowledge
&
Shared Understanding**

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Wildlife Health Information & Proactive Networking

Coordinators & Focus groups are not enough - Networking requires Nurturing

- Facilitate linkages & encourage relationships between key wildlife health stakeholders
- Improve communications with subscribers and stakeholders & Keep network subscribers informed
- Identifies current wildlife issues around the world that may be of relevance to Australia
- Rapid and timely access to information aids decision making by those in Australia

Mechanisms:

- Disease incident coordination & communication
- Weekly electronic digest of wildlife health information
- Maintain a grey and peer reviewed literature database
- Public participation
- **WildHealth - an electronic resource centre**



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Wildlife Health Incident Response

Coordinate and monitor field surveys and/or investigations of disease incidents

Communication required @ both Jurisdictional & Commonwealth level:

- Requires understanding of political, ethical and/or commercial sensitivities
- Provide relevant, accurate & timely information
- Inform key agencies & encourage communications

Mechanisms:

- E-mail Notifications & Alerts
- Teleconferences
- SITREPS (Situation Reports)



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AWHN weekly electronic Digest

Horizon Scanning – identify issues only just beginning to emerge, and whose impact is, at present, highly uncertain.

AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE HEALTH NETWORK

PUBLIC HEALTH DIGEST WEEK 4 MARCH 2010

Hi everyone - Details of previous postings can be found on the AWHN website Bulletin Board at <http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/Forum/ListForum> post to the Digest email tgrillo@zoo.nsw.gov.au or rwoods@zoo.nsw.gov.au.

For the most recent List of Wildlife Coordinator's Contact Details for **reporting wildlife mortality events** follow the link: <http://www.wildlifehealth.org.au/AWHN/ProgramsProjects/Programs.aspx> and click on Wildlife coordinators (General surveillance).

AUSTRALIA (1)

1. Avian influenza (AI) - ALERT (194)

- ❖ FAO: On the trail of avian influenza
- ❖ International Meeting Launches Final Report on Siberian Crane Wetland Project
- ❖ Development and evaluation of a one-step real-time RT-PCR assay for universal detection of influenza A viruses from avian and mammalian

WildHealth

Karrie Rose
Jane Hall
Shannon Donahoe

The screenshot displays the WildHealth web application interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Personal Space' for user 'KARRIE.ROSE' and a 'WildHealth' dropdown menu. Below this is a header with logos for Taronga Conservation Society Australia, Arcitectura, Cybec Foundation, and ABIN. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a central panel. The sidebar contains a 'Main Menu' with buttons for 'Cases and Specimens', 'Enquiry Options', 'Reports Options', and 'Administration Options', along with an 'Exit Application' button. The central panel shows a 'Case Information' form with tabs for 'Case Information' and 'Specimen Information'. The 'Case Information' tab is active, displaying a 'Summary' section with fields for Case ID (TARZ-1 [1037.3.1]) and Deprecated ID. Below this is a 'Submitter' section with a 'Submitter Management' table. The table has columns for Submitter, Address, Suburb, State, Zip, Phone (Business), Phone (Home), Mobile, Fax, Email, Classification, and Reason. The 'Submitter' field is currently set to 'None'. The interface also includes a 'Page 1 of 1' indicator and a 'New Case TARZ' button. The footer shows 'Displaying Case 1 of 1' and an 'Exit' button.

WildHealth provides **infrastructure** & an **online community space** established to pull together a unique set of wildlife health resources and data, made available to wildlife health and biosecurity professionals to facilitate wildlife research and surveillance.

www.arwh.org

www.abin.org.au

WHY NETWORK?

1. **Integrate** wildlife health surveillance activities into **national frameworks**
2. Better **coordinate activities between agencies**
3. **Recognise the mutual need for sustained direction and focus**
4. **Linkage to expertise at national level**
5. **Building awareness of wildlife disease and health**
6. **Building national corporate knowledge**

To be forewarned is to be forearmed

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WHAT DO YOU NEED TO NETWORK?

1. Genuine interest, curiosity, willingness to listen & patience
2. Understanding & recognition of mutual needs
3. Collaboration & communication between agencies
4. Linkage to expertise at national level

BUT to be SUSTAINABLE:

1. Underlying frameworks
2. Formal processes



FUNDING

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FUTURE NETWORKING?

Embracing the future of the web:

- Already happening via WildHealth

What else:

- Facebook
- Twitter
- iPhone apps
- uTube

ALL REQUIRE
INVESTMENT
OF
TIME & MONEY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Australia's Wildlife Exotic Disease Preparedness Program
- OCVO and Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- Australian Government Department of Health & Aging
- Australian Government Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- Animal Health Committee
- State & Territory Government Departments
- Animal Health Australia (Industry)
- Australian Registry of Wildlife Health
- Vertebrate Pest Committee
- Animal Health Australia
- NSW Industry & Investment
- Taronga Conservation Society Australia
- AWHN State/ Territory coordinators
- Wildlife Disease Association –Australasia



www.wildlifehealth.org.au

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**Department of Agriculture,
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