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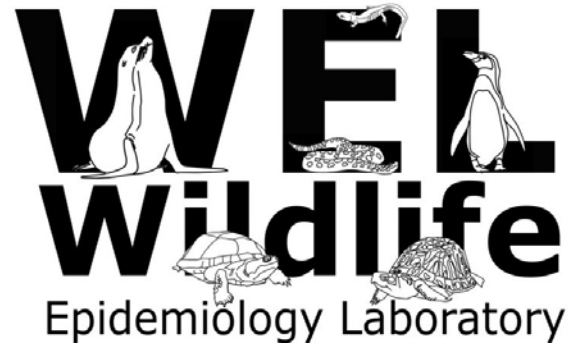
Wildlife Epidemiology Laboratory

University of Illinois-College of Veterinary Medicine
Open House 2020



What do we do?

- Offer research and training opportunities for veterinarians and veterinary students
 - Fieldwork and data collection
 - Turtle Team
 - Blanding's Teams
 - Snake Team
 - Dragon Team
 - Hands on experience with our in-lab reptile species
- Educate our students and community about the importance of wildlife health and diseases
- Collaborate with other researchers, organizations and institutions.



Species of interest?



Eastern and Ornate box turtles
EBT- (*Terrapene carolina carolina*)
OBT- (*Terrapene ornata ornata*)



Blanding's turtles
(*Emydoidea blandingii*)



TURTLES

Alligator snapping turtles
(*Macrochelys temminckii*)





Lake Erie watersnakes
(*Nerodia sipedon insularum*)



Prairie rattlesnakes
(*Crotalus viridis*)



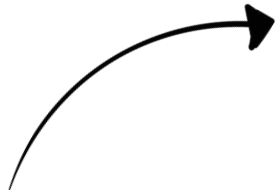
SNAKES



Timber rattlesnakes
(*Crotalus horridus*)



Eastern massasauga
(*Sistrurus catenatus*)





Bearded dragons
(*Pogona vitticeps*)



Summer Research - Turtle Team



What do we do?

- We travel to multiple locations in Illinois and Tennessee.
- Catch, sample and release Eastern and Ornate box turtles.
- Assess population health and contribute to species conservation.

How do we do it?

- We get help from John Rucker and his Boykin Spaniels - known as the turtle dogs.
- Volunteer veterinary students (20-30) join us for a few weeks as well.



Summer Research - Blanding's Teams



What do we do?

- Spend the summer in the swamps of northern Illinois.
- Catch, sample and release Blanding's turtles, painted turtles, and snapping turtles.
- Assess population health and contribute to species conservation.

How do we do it?

- Use hoop traps to catch turtles and check them every day.
- Track turtles using radio radiotelemetry.



Summer Research - Snake Team

What do we do?

- Work with Ohio State University's Stone Lab to measure the prevalence of Ophidiomyces (Snake fungal disease) in Lake Erie watersnakes every summer.
- Investigate outbreaks of SFD in wild snake populations.
- Collaborate with zoos and other organizations to further improve the understanding of SFD.

How do we do it?

- Perform DNA extractions to measure SFD levels.
- Capture, swab and release individuals to track the epidemiology of SFD
- Investigate new modalities of treatment and diagnostics



Summer Research - Dragon Team

What do we do?

- Perform daily husbandry, care and treatment of our bearded dragon colony
- Facilitate hands-on teaching and learning opportunities for veterinary students interested in reptile medicine.

How do we do it?

- Design research projects pertaining to reptile treatment and diagnostics.
- Acquire grants and additional funding to continue our leadership in reptile medicine



Follow our Adventures and Discoveries on our Social Media Pages!



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 **WildlifeEpiLab at IL**
@WildlifeEpiLab

Happy #TurtleTuesday! Here's a Blanding's Turtle showing off its characteristic yellow chin! They are considered endangered in Illinois due to habitat loss. Since 2010, we have been helping with the release of hundreds of head-starter babies in order to help conserve this species



Lake County FP

5:21 PM · Feb 25, 2020 · Twitter for iPhone


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Instagram: @wildlifeepilab




 **wildlifeepilab**
University of Illinois College of Veterinary ...

 **wildlifeepilab** It may only be for one day a week but here in the WEL, we treat EVERYDAY like it's #TurtleTuesday 🐢🐢


#turtletuesday #soakingupthesun #boxturtle #uiuc #vetmed #reptiles #wildlife #wildlifehealth #AllisWEL #WhenAtTheWEL

3w

 **nashvillewildlifecc** Same. Here. 🐢

3w Reply

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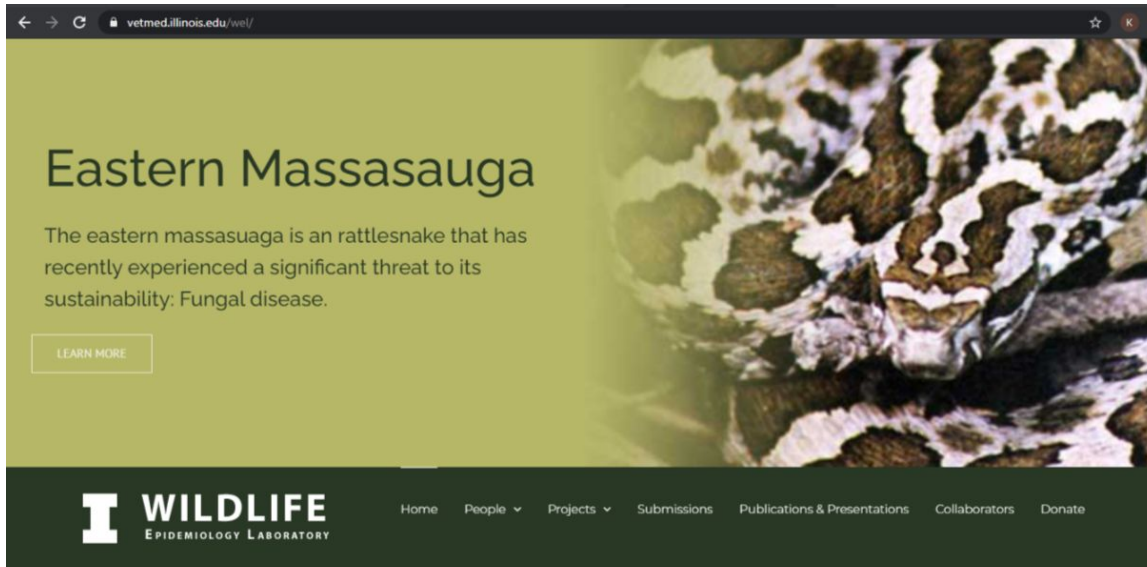
 Liked by **matt.allender** and 58 others

AUGUST 25

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Want to learn more about what we do???

Visit our website - <https://vetmed.illinois.edu/wel/>



- Scroll to the bottom and check out our student blogs about summer fieldwork
- Click the “People” link to meet our incredible team of veterinarians and veterinary students in the lab!
- Find additional links for diseases, collaboration, publications and more!