

Introduction

We are looking to understand the experiences, attitudes, and opinions of wildlife biologists in Alabama toward wildlife health to improve our understanding of the state of knowledge of wildlife professionals regarding zoonotic diseases. Understanding what YOU as a wildlife professional know and think about wildlife health will give YOU an actionable voice and seat at the table. This project is funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and developed by personnel in Auburn University's College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment. Your survey responses will be anonymous, and no identifying factors will be collected. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns about the survey, please reach out to Rylee Tomey (MS student) at rdt0029@auburn.edu. We greatly appreciate your input. To begin, click the next button below. Thank you for your participation.

Demographics

What year were you born?

Do you live and/or work in Alabama

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is the zip code of your current residence?
(5 digit zip code)

Select the race that best describes you:

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Black or African American

- ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

Do you identify with Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish origin?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

What is your gender?

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female
- ☐ Other
- ☐ I prefer not to answer

What was your approximate household income in 2019?

- ☐ \$0-20,000
- ☐ \$20,001-30,000
- ☐ \$30,001-40,000
- ☐ \$40,001-50,000
- ☐ \$50,001-60,000
- ☐ \$60,001-70,000
- ☐ \$70,001-80,000
- ☐ \$80,001-90,000
- ☐ \$90,001-100,000
- ☐ \$100,001+

What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Did not graduate high school/no GED
- ☐ High school graduate/GED
- ☐ Technical/Vocational School

- ☐ Some College/AA or AS (2-year degree)
- ☐ College Graduate/BA or BS (4-year degree)
- ☐ Graduate or Professional School

Do you have a degree in wildlife biology, ecology, or management or related field?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Are you certified by The Wildlife Society (TWS) as a wildlife biologist?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Have you taken a formal course on wildlife health?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

When did you take a formal course on wildlife health?

- ☐ <5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ >10 years

Do you consider yourself to be a wildlife biologist?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

For how many years have you been employed as a wildlife biologist?

- ☐ <1 year
- ☐ 1-5 years
- ☐ 5-10 years
- ☐ 10-20 years
- ☐ >20 years

Which type of activities best describe the primary focus of your work in wildlife biology?

☐ Land/Wildlife Management

☐ Research

☐ Administration

☐ Consulting

☐ Education

☐ Other

What is your primary affiliation in the field of wildlife biology?

☐ Federal Government

☐ State/Provincial Government

☐ Private Industry

☐ Academic/Research Institution

☐ Nonprofit/Conservation Organization

☐ Tribal

☐ Professional Societies or Associations

☐ Other

Practices & Activities

How frequently do you come into direct physical contact with wildlife in Alabama as part of your employment duties?

☐ Daily

☐ Weekly

☐ Monthly

☐ Rarely

☐ Never

What percentage of the time do you spend in the field as part of your employment duties?

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100
Percentage

Do you regularly collect samples in the field from wildlife in Alabama?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Do you regularly handle samples in the laboratory or field that have been collected from wildlife in Alabama?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

When collecting samples, the animal is typically:

- ☐ Alive - Not Sedated
- ☐ Alive - Sedated
- ☐ Dead

If you handle or collect samples from wildlife in Alabama, do you utilize personal protective equipment (PPE)?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Applicable

How often do you use PPE when handling or collecting samples?

- ☐ Never (0%)
- ☐ Rarely (<25%)
- ☐ Sometimes (25%-75%)
- ☐ Usually (>75%)
- ☐ Always (100%)

In which counties do you regularly come into contact with wildlife in Alabama? Select all that apply.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Autauga | <input type="checkbox"/> Houston |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baldwin | <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barbour | <input type="checkbox"/> Jefferson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibb | <input type="checkbox"/> Lamar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blount | <input type="checkbox"/> Lauderdale |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bullock | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawrence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Butler | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Calhoun | <input type="checkbox"/> Limestone |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chambers | <input type="checkbox"/> Lowndes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherokee | <input type="checkbox"/> Macon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chilton | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Choctaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Marengo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarke | <input type="checkbox"/> Marion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clay | <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleburne | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee | <input type="checkbox"/> Monroe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colbert | <input type="checkbox"/> Montgomery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conecuh | <input type="checkbox"/> Morgan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coosa | <input type="checkbox"/> Perry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Covington | <input type="checkbox"/> Pickens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Crenshaw | <input type="checkbox"/> Pike |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cullman | <input type="checkbox"/> Randolph |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dale | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint Clair |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DeKalb | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelby |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elmore | <input type="checkbox"/> Sumter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Escambia | <input type="checkbox"/> Talladega |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Etowah | <input type="checkbox"/> Tallapoosa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fayette | <input type="checkbox"/> Tuscaloosa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin | <input type="checkbox"/> Walker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geneva | <input type="checkbox"/> Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greene | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilcox |

☐ Hale

☐ Winston

☐ Henry

Did you have a hunting/trapping license for the state of Alabama in the past three years (2020-2023)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Health Knowledge

Wild pigs may serve as a source of infectious disease transmission to both humans and domestic animals in Alabama.

☐ True

☐ False

☐ I don't know

Brucellosis affects reproduction in domestic animals but is not a concern for wildlife.

☐ True

☐ False

☐ I don't know

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is primarily transmitted among cervids (deer/elk) through ticks.

☐ True

☐ False

☐ I don't know

Avian influenza has been found in wild and domestic birds in Alabama.

☐ True

☐ False

☐ I don't know

Avian influenza does not kill wildlife.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ I don't know

SARS CoV2 (COVID) can infect deer.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ I don't know

SARS CoV2 (COVID) from wildlife can infect humans.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ I don't know

Rabies has been found in ALL states that border Alabama.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False
- ☐ I don't know

How is rabies transmitted?

- ☐ Bites
- ☐ Blood
- ☐ Arthropods
- ☐ Urine
- ☐ Feces
- ☐ I don't know

How should you dispose of a fresh wild turkey carcass that was found in Alabama?

- ☐ Incinerate
- ☐ Bury

- ☐ Field dress and consumption
- ☐ Place in a dumpster
- ☐ Ignore
- ☐ I don't know

Attitudes & Beliefs

CWD was present in Alabama before the 21st century

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Bats are significant carriers of many infectious diseases in Alabama

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary when conducting fieldwork that does not directly involve zoonotic diseases

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a major threat to human health

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree

- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

The only way to deal with zoonotic diseases in wildlife (such as rabies) is to let nature take its course

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

I believe that..

Reducing the population of certain wild species in affected areas will eliminate infectious diseases in Alabama

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Current plans to manage wildlife populations in Alabama will be effective in controlling infectious diseases

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Surveillance is essential to successful infectious disease management

- ☐ Strongly Agree

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

The vaccination of wildlife, such as for rabies, should be considered for other diseases

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

I am concerned...

About the current prevalence of wildlife diseases in Alabama

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

That infectious diseases will affect Alabama's biodiversity

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

That wildlife diseases in my region will affect my health or my family's health today.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral

- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

That climate change will impact wildlife health in Alabama.

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Education

A course on wildlife health should be required for a major in wildlife biology

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Information on wildlife health can be acquired through continuing education rather than in undergraduate courses

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

All critical elements (including aspects of wildlife health) can be acquired through on-the-job training and experience

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neutral

- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly Disagree

Is the information you need regarding wildlife health in Alabama easily accessible to you?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

What is your preferred source to obtain information regarding wildlife health in Alabama?
Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Friends/Family
- ☐ State Wildlife Agency
- ☐ Academic Publications
- ☐ Social Media
- ☐ News Sources
- ☐ Conferences
- ☐ I have not looked for health information
- ☐ Other

Would you be interested in learning more about wildlife health in Alabama?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Unsure

If there was a free course on wildlife health in Alabama, how would you like to participate?
Please select all that apply.

- ☐ One day, in-person conference
- ☐ One day, virtual conference
- ☐ Year-long, once a month, virtual conference
- ☐ Other

What topics would you like to obtain more information regarding wildlife health in Alabama?
Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Rabies
- ☐ Influenza
- ☐ Leptospirosis
- ☐ Raccoon roundworm
- ☐ Vector borne diseases
- ☐ CWD
- ☐ SarsCoV2
- ☐ One Health
- ☐ Other

Final Remarks

Please write any additional comments, questions, or concerns below