Alabama Wildlife Biologists' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices on Wildlife Health & Zoonoses

Survey Flow

Standard: Introduction (1 Question)

Block: Demographics (16 Questions)

Standard: Practices & Activities (9 Questions)

Standard: Health Knowledge (10 Questions)

Standard: Attitudes & Beliefs  (15 Questions)

Standard: Education (8 Questions)

Standard: Final Remarks (1 Question)

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Start of Block: Introduction

Q1 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.

End of Block: Introduction

Start of Block: Demographics

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Q2 What year were you born?

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Q3 Do you live and/or work in Alabama

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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Q4 What is the zip code of your current residence? (5 digit zip code)

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Q5 Select the race that best describes you:

* American Indian or Alaskan Native (1)
* Asian (2)
* Black or African American (3)
* Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (4)
* White (6)
* Other (7) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* I prefer not to answer (8)

Q6 Do you identify with Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish origin?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* I prefer not to answer (3)

Q7 What is your gender?

* Male (1)
* Female (2)
* Other (3)
* I prefer not to answer (4)

Q8 What was your approximate household income in 2019?

* $0-20,000 (1)
* $20,001-30,000 (2)
* $30,001-40,000 (3)
* $40,001-50,000 (4)
* $50,001-60,000 (5)
* $60,001-70,000 (6)
* $70,001-80,000 (7)
* $80,001-90,000 (8)
* $90,001-100,000 (9)
* $100,001+ (10)

Q9 What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

* Did not graduate high school/no GED (1)
* High school graduate/GED (2)
* Technical/Vocational School (3)
* Some College/AA or AS (2-year degree) (4)
* College Graduate/BA or BS (4-year degree) (5)
* Graduate or Professional School (6)

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Q10 Do you have a degree in wildlife biology, ecology, or management or related field?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Q11 Are you certified by The Wildlife Society (TWS) as a wildlife biologist?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Q12 Have you taken a formal course on wildlife health?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Display this question:

If Have you taken a formal course on wildlife health? = Yes

Q93 When did you take a formal course on wildlife health?

* <5 years (1)
* 5-10 years (2)
* >10 years (3)

Q13 Do you consider yourself to be a wildlife biologist?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

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Q14 For how many years have you been employed as a wildlife biologist?

* <1 year (1)
* 1-5 years (2)
* 5-10 years (3)
* 10-20 years (4)
* >20 years (5)

Q15 Which type of activities best describe the primary focus of your work in wildlife biology?

* Land/Wildlife Management (1)
* Research (2)
* Administration (3)
* Consulting (4)
* Education (5)
* Other (6) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q16 What is your primary affiliation in the field of wildlife biology?

* Federal Government (1)
* State/Provincial Government (2)
* Private Industry (3)
* Academic/Research Institution (4)
* Nonprofit/Conservation Organization (5)
* Tribal (6)
* Professional Societies or Associations (7)
* Other (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Demographics

Start of Block: Practices & Activities

Q18 How frequently do you come into direct physical contact with wildlife in Alabama as part of your employment duties?

* Daily (1)
* Weekly (2)
* Monthly (3)
* Rarely (4)
* Never (5)

Q17 What percentage of the time do you spend in the field as part of your employment duties?

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0 | 10 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 |

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| Percentage () |  |

Q19 Do you regularly collect samples in the field from wildlife in Alabama?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Q20 Do you regularly handle samples in the laboratory or field that have been collected from wildlife in Alabama?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Display this question:

If Do you regularly handle samples in the laboratory or field that have been collected from wildlife... = Yes

Q94 When collecting samples, the animal is typically:

* Alive - Not Sedated (1)
* Alive - Sedated (2)
* Dead (3)

Q21 If you handle or collect samples from wildlife in Alabama, do you utilize personal protective equipment (PPE)?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Not Applicable (3)

Display this question:

If If you handle or collect samples from wildlife in Alabama, do you utilize personal protective equ... = Yes

Q95 How often do you use PPE when handling or collecting samples?

* Never (0%) (1)
* Rarely ( (2)
* Sometimes (25%-75%) (3)
* Usually (>75%) (4)
* Always (100%) (5)

Q22 In which counties do you regularly come into contact with wildlife in Alabama? Select all that apply.

* Autauga (1)
* Baldwin (2)
* Barbour (68)
* Bibb (3)
* Blount (4)
* Bullock (5)
* Butler (6)
* Calhoun (7)
* Chambers (8)
* Cherokee (9)
* Chilton (10)
* Choctaw (11)
* Clarke (12)
* Clay (13)
* Cleburne (14)
* Coffee (15)
* Colbert (16)
* Conecuh (17)
* Coosa (18)
* Covington (19)
* Crenshaw (20)
* Cullman (21)
* Dale (22)
* Dallas (23)
* DeKalb (24)
* Elmore (25)
* Escambia (26)
* Etowah (27)
* Fayette (28)
* Franklin (29)
* Geneva (30)
* Greene (31)
* Hale (32)
* Henry (33)
* Houston (34)
* Jackson (35)
* Jefferson (36)
* Lamar (37)
* Lauderdale (38)
* Lawrence (39)
* Lee (40)
* Limestone (41)
* Lowndes (42)
* Macon (43)
* Madison (44)
* Marengo (45)
* Marion (46)
* Marshall (47)
* Mobile (48)
* Monroe (49)
* Montgomery (50)
* Morgan (51)
* Perry (52)
* Pickens (53)
* Pike (54)
* Randolph (55)
* Russell (56)
* Saint Clair (57)
* Shelby (58)
* Sumter (59)
* Talladega (60)
* Tallapoosa (61)
* Tuscaloosa (62)
* Walker (63)
* Washington (64)
* Wilcox (65)
* Winston (66)

Q23 Did you have a hunting/trapping license for the state of Alabama in the past three years (2020-2023)?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

End of Block: Practices & Activities

Start of Block: Health Knowledge

Q24 Wild pigs may serve as a source of infectious disease transmission to both humans and domestic animals in Alabama.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q25 Brucellosis affects reproduction in domestic animals but is not a concern for wildlife.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q26 Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is primarily transmitted among cervids (deer/elk) through ticks.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q27 Avian influenza has been found in wild and domestic birds in Alabama.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q28 Avian influenza does not kill wildlife.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q29 SARS CoV2 (COVID) can infect deer.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q30 SARS CoV2 (COVID) from wildlife can infect humans.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q32 Rabies has been found in ALL states that border Alabama.

* True (1)
* False (2)
* I don't know (3)

Q33 How is rabies transmitted?

* Bites (1)
* Blood (2)
* Athropods (3)
* Urine (4)
* Feces (5)
* I don't know (6)

Q34 How should you dispose of a fresh wild turkey carcass that was found in Alabama?

* Incinerate (1)
* Bury (2)
* Field dress and consumption (3)
* Place in a dumpster (4)
* Ignore (5)
* I don't know (6)

End of Block: Health Knowledge

Start of Block: Attitudes & Beliefs

Q35 CWD was present in Alabama before the 21st century

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q36 Bats are significant carriers of many infectious diseases in Alabama

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q37 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary when conducting fieldwork that does not directly involve zoonotic diseases

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q38 Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) is a major threat to human health

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q39 The only way to deal with zoonotic diseases in wildlife (such as rabies) is to let nature take its course

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

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Q40 I believe that..

Q41 Reducing the population of certain wild species in affected areas will eliminate infectious diseases in Alabama

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q42 Current plans to manage wildlife populations in Alabama will be effective in controlling infectious diseases

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q43 Surveillance is essential to successful infectious disease management

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q44 The vaccination of wildlife, such as for rabies, should be considered for other diseases

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

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Q45 I am concerned...

Q46 About the current prevalence of wildlife diseases in Alabama

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q47 That infectious diseases will affect Alabama’s biodiversity

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q48 That wildlife diseases in my region will affect my health or my family’s health today.

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q49 That climate change will impact wildlife health in Alabama.

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

End of Block: Attitudes & Beliefs

Start of Block: Education

Q50 A course on wildlife health should be required for a major in wildlife biology

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q51 Information on wildlife health can be acquired through continuing education rather than in undergraduate courses

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

Q52 All critical elements (including aspects of wildlife health) can be acquired through on-the-job training and experience

* Strongly Agree (1)
* Agree (2)
* Neutral (3)
* Disagree (4)
* Strongly Disagree (5)

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Q53 Is the information you need regarding wildlife health in Alabama easily accessible to you?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)

Q54 What is your preferred source to obtain information regarding wildlife health in Alabama? Please select all that apply.

* Friends/Family (1)
* State Wildlife Agency (2)
* Academic Publications (3)
* Social Media (4)
* News Sources (5)
* Conferences (6)
* I have not looked for health information (7)
* Other (8) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q55 Would you be interested in learning more about wildlife health in Alabama?

* Yes (1)
* No (2)
* Unsure (3)

Q56 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 (1)
* One day, virtual conference (2)
* Year-long, once a month, virtual conference (3)
* Other (4) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Q57 What topics would you like to obtain more information regarding wildlife health in Alabama? Please select all that apply.

* Rabies (1)
* Influenza (2)
* Leptospirosis (3)
* Raccoon roundworm (4)
* Vector borne diseases (5)
* CWD (6)
* SarsCoV2 (7)
* One Health (8)
* Other (9) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

End of Block: Education

Start of Block: Final Remarks

Q58 Please write any additional comments, questions, or concerns below

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End of Block: Final Remarks