**PURPOSE**

* to understand the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of wildlife biologists in Alabama as they relate to wildlife health and zoonoses

**PARTICIPANTS**

* participant population = the number of participants and the rationale for determining the number of participants to recruit and enroll
  + requirements:
    - wildlife biologists in Alabama
    - over the age of 19 (DOB after 2005)
    - access to internet
  + the target number of responses is 150 participants (previous studies have elicited similar response levels

**RECRUITMENT**

* respondents will be provided with an information letter and asked for consent to participate
* the online survey with be obtained using a combination of:
  + ADCNR contact lists, list servs from community partners, and media accounts (ADCNR + AU CFWE)
    - Potentially request that community groups (E.G. Alabama TWS) share the suvey on their social media site as well
* The online survey will be administered over the internet through Qualtrics.
  + Ability to complete the survey via a QR code or URL on mobile devices as well as computers

**CONSENT PROCESS**

* Using contacts (ADCNR, AUCFWE, community partners) we will invite participants to answer questions via email
  + After 4 weeks, if we have not heard back, we send a second reminder email

**TIMELINE**

* Surveys will be administered by S. Ditchkoff remotely through email over a 1-year period

**RESEARCH PROCEDURES AND METHODOLOGY**

* Identifying information is not needed as it is not relevant to the research question
  + This makes the collection of de-identified information in anonymous surveys the chosen method for study
* A letter of information will be administered to participants that will include the following information:
  + Background and purpose of the study, why they were selected, their total time commitment, any risks involved with the research (I.E. none), and how their information will be kept anonymous
* All surveys will be self-administered remotely through email by each individual
* Data will be protected through Auburn Box which requires password protection and dual-authentication log-in to access the data
  + No personal identification information will be recorded during this project
* Anticipated time to complete the survey is 15-20 minutes
* Level of measurement

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| DESIRED INFORMATION | LEVEL OF MEASUREMENT |
| Knowledge of wildlife disease basics | The proportion of correct responses can be calculated across all respondents. The median correct answer score can be taken, with those below the score described as *Less Knowledgeable* and those above the score described as *More Knowledgeable*. |
| Knowledge on disease management | The proportion of correct responses can be calculated across all respondents. The median correct answer score can be taken, with those below the score described as *Less Knowledgeable* and those above the score described as *More Knowledgeable*. |
| Knowledge and attitudes on who to contact and what actions to take if suspect disease exposure occurs | The proportion of correct responses can be calculated across all respondents. The median correct answer score can be taken, with those below the score described as *Less Knowledgeable* and those above the score described as *More Knowledgeable*. Attitudinal responses may be gauged in correlation to experience and demographics. |
| Practice on how frequently the respondent encounters wildlife directly | Ordinal, Nominal |
| Attitudes on the importance of climate change and wildlife health | Ordinal, with some respondents classified as less concerned about climate change impact on wildlife health and some categorized as more concerned. |
| Attitudes on the utility of incorporation of an undergraduate wildlife health course for the profession | Ordinal, with some respondents classified as less concerned about the need for undergraduate inclusion of a course on wildlife health and some categorized as more supportive. |
| Attitudes on the likely participation at a free, on-line Auburn sponsored course on wildlife health and zoonoses | Ordinal, with some respondents classified as less likely in participation in a course on wildlife health and some categorized as more likely. |
| Attitudes on the probable attendance at a free, one day Auburn symposium on wildlife health and zoonoses | Ordinal, with some respondents classified as less likely in participation in a symposium on wildlife health and some categorized as more likely. |
| Experience levels | Ordinal, which can be turned into a comparative variable for less experienced vs. more experienced biologists related to KAP |
| Demographics | Variable relationship to KAP |

**LOCATION**

* Surveys will be distributed remotely through email – URL + QR
  + Survey will be administered on Qualtrics
* Individuals will take the survey at their own pace (able to leave the survey incomplete and return)
* Individuals will use a personal electronic device to complete survey
  + Including: mobile devices (phones, ipads), computers, laptops or other devices

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