

ロンドン動物学会からのフィールドコース開催のお知らせ

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先日、ロンドン動物学会からフィールドコース開催のお知らせを頂きました。興味深く貴重な企画であると思いますので、一度、お読み下されば幸いです。

Interventions in Wild Animal Health Field Course

The Zoological Society of London (ZSL), the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) and the University of Edinburgh (UoE) jointly ran the second Interventions in Wild Animal Health (IWAH) Field Course in 2017. An integral component of the on-line MVetSci Conservation Medicine awarded by UoE, the Course was held once again in Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, India. Building upon last year's course, practical field skills in population monitoring, disease investigation and surveillance, and physical and chemical restraint were taught. An important addition to the programme this year was a wildlife forensics component that generated considerable interest amongst the wildlife veterinarians undergoing the course.

Twenty-six wildlife veterinarians from six different countries attended, with the majority of the students living and working in South Asia.

In response to feedback from last year's students, additional hands-on field work and opportunities for students to test their

skills was provided. For example, following a training session on radio-telemetry one of the students, successfully detected the movement of a tiger, the animal having been stationary for well over an hour, which enabled the student group to sight the tiger and monitor its health through direct examination. Without training earlier in the course, the wildlife veterinarian students might not have noticed the subtle changes in feedback from the radio transmitter and would have missed the opportunity to closely monitor the tiger.

The wildlife veterinarians received training in fundamental concepts in population monitoring techniques, such as camera trapping and line transects, before putting them into practice in the field. Understanding methods for monitoring population dynamics and carrying these out in the field are crucial foundations for determining the importance of threats to wildlife populations from infectious and non-infectious diseases. The students expressed the desire to apply this to their everyday



Down time during the IWAH course: playing cricket



Participants monitoring and collecting samples during Sambar immobilisation practical



Remote injection of a Sambar deer in field conditions

work.

A visit to Pandupole temple provided a wealth of learning experiences in human-wildlife interface investigations. Wild animals are present in the vicinity of the temple which is visited by large numbers of people, with close interactions frequently occurring across species. During the visit, two wild animal carcasses in very different states of decomposition were located enabling field pathological examinations to take place, providing an opportunity to understand the challenges in carrying out diagnostic investigations in real field situations. Under tutor guidance, course participants learned how to maximise the information gained from post-mortem examinations of wildlife in testing field conditions.

Following a day of planning and skills acquisition, two days were devoted to field chemical restraint in Sariska National Park. The students formed into groups with each group responsible for a different aspect of the procedure, ranging from remote drug delivery, post immobilization anaesthetic monitoring, biological sampling and animal monitoring.

Sariska National Park is a wonderful natural environment for the students to learn in-situ and we are looking forward to the next IWAH course in 2018.

"Sariska National Park provides valuable learning opportunity to international students. One can observe very high population of wild ungulates, variety of carnivores including tigers, and highest density of Indian peafowl amidst a most

challenging environment of human wildlife interface."

— Professor Pradeep Malik WII

"As a vet working predominantly in zoos it is a real privilege to work alongside students with free-living wildlife; the opportunity to transfer knowledge and skills learnt in captive settings to improve outcomes in the wild, and vice versa, is a great example of how wildlife health professionals can collaborate in the interests of the conservation of species."

— Dr. Nic Masters ZSL

"Being able to see at first hand the challenges involved in managing wildlife health in the face of mounting pressure from human and domestic animal populations is highly valuable to the course participants. The facilities available in Sariska National Park provide an ideal environment to examine the issues in depth and to provide 'hands-on' practical training"

— Dr. Neil Anderson UoE

The interventions in Wild Animal Health Field Course will take place annually and further details are available on <http://www.zsl.org/science/postgraduate-study/interventions-in-wild-animal-health>. Further details of the MVetSci Conservation Medicine are available here <http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/conservation-medicine>. Priority for the field course is given to applicants from South Asia. We acknowledge the financial support of the Thriplow Charitable Trust.



Markers at a simulated crime scene: a component of the forensic investigation field practical