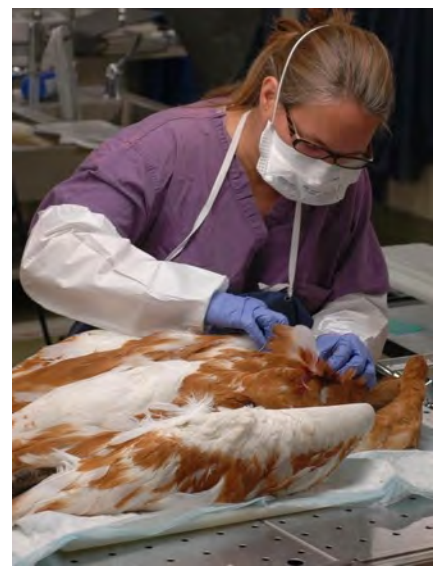


American College of Zoological Medicine Wildlife Population Health



*Becoming a board-certified leader in
free-ranging wildlife population health*



ACZM

The American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM)

Who we are

Founded in 1983, the American College of Zoological Medicine was created for the purpose of “furthering the health and welfare of individuals and populations of aquatic animals, zoological companion animals, and captive and free-ranging wild animals”.

Currently, the ACZM certifies individuals in the disciplines of Zoological Companion Animal, General Zoo, Aquatic, and Wildlife. Today, the ACZM is comprised of over 200 diplomates across the four disciplines.



Why become a diplomate?



- Be mentored by experienced specialists in wildlife population health and management
- Achieve certification of excellence that is globally recognized by zoological and wildlife agencies and institutions
- Build a fulfilling career dedicated to advancing knowledge and techniques related to wildlife medicine and health
- Train future zoological and wildlife veterinarians to grow and sustain the field for generations to come

Credentialing Requirements



What does it take?



- **Veterinary licensure**
- **Credentialing experience via:**
 - Completion of an ACZM-certified residency in zoological medicine (3+ years) under the teachings and guidance of ACZM diplomates.
- OR -
 - At least 6 years of documented full-time experience in wildlife or zoological medicine, which may include experience gained through ACZM-approved zoo/wildlife-related MS/PhD coursework, wildlife health policy, conservation medicine, or One Health experiences. Formal identification of two (2) Diplomate mentors is required.
- **Three primary, discipline-relevant, peer-reviewed publications – including at least one based on original research – that have been accepted and/or published by a journal.**
- **Qualification and acceptance of credentials**
 - If credentials are accepted by the ACZM, the applicant is qualified to sit for the ACZM board examination. The exam is a two day process.

The ACZM Board Examination



Examination Basics



- The ACZM examination is administered once a year, in the fall.
- An examination fee of US \$1000 (non-refundable) is required.
- The exam is conducted over a two (2)-day period and is divided into two distinct examinations.
 1. The Qualifying Examination is given on Day 1.
 2. Candidates who pass the Day 1 Examination are eligible to take the Certification or Subgroup Examination, which is given on Day 2.
- **Day 1:**
 - The Day 1 Qualifying Examination tests understanding of the major animal groups within the discipline of zoological medicine, and is comprised of five sections including aquatic (marine mammals, fish, and invertebrates), avian, herpetofauna, captive mammal, and free-ranging wildlife.
 - This examination is multiple choice questions only.
- **Day 2:**
 - The Day 2 (Subgroup) Certifying Examination assesses detailed understanding of a specific discipline within zoological medicine. Currently, there are four subgroup examination areas: free-ranging wildlife, aquatic animal, general zoo animal, and zoological companion animal.
 - This examination includes multiple choice, essay, and image-based questions.
- After meeting all of the credentialing requirements and passing both examinations, the veterinarian is recognized as a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine or, in short, *board certified* in zoological medicine.



Common Questions



Q: *Is completion of a formal, compliant ACZM residency the only path to board certification in wildlife population health?*

A: While the residency pathway is the most common route to certification in some disciplines, candidates may also pursue an experiential pathway, especially those who may have taken a non-traditional path to becoming a practicing wildlife veterinarian. The alternate pathway, or experiential route, is perfect for candidates who did not complete a formal residency program. Relevant "experience" for the wildlife discipline may include work in state and federal wildlife agency positions, non-governmental organizations, zoological or conservation medicine practice and even appropriate formal MS/PhD training - all of which may count toward the 6-year alternate pathway requirement.

Q: *How do I know if my experience will count toward credentialing via the experiential pathway?*

A: Prospective candidates interested in ACZM board certification are encouraged to contact the ACZM Credentialing Committee directly to receive feedback on whether their experience qualifies for credentialing. While such feedback is informal and not part of the credentialing process, the committee will offer sound guidance on the kinds of experience that meets the requirements of the ACZM.

Q: *Is the examination difficult?*

A: The ACZM board certification examination is a challenging, but a representative assessment of the knowledge expected of specialists in the field of zoological medicine. The ACZM recently changed to a cumulative passing scoring system for all sections on the Day 1 examination as opposed to the previous system where all sections had to be passed individually, which should help candidates pursuing certification in the future.

Q: *Where can I find more information about ACZM certification in the wildlife discipline?*

A: Information and resources are available to prospective candidates, including the ACZM website and current wildlife diplomates! A formal report from the ACZM *ad hoc* Committee on Wildlife is available on the ACZM website. Finally, you can reach out to college members who specialize in wildlife population health directly via email (WildlifeACZM@gmail.com).

Diplomates in the Wild



Dr. Kirsten Gilardi

“Pictured with Dr. Fred Nizeyimana outside Mgahinga National Park, Uganda. Gorilla Doctors provides *in situ* veterinary care, health monitoring and disease research for endangered mountain gorillas and critically endangered Grauer’s gorillas in east-central Africa.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Gorilla Doctors, UC Davis

Dr. Jonathan Sleeman

“As a representative of the USGS, I participated in a signing ceremony with Mahidol University, Bangkok to establish an agreement to assist with development of the Thailand National Wildlife Health Center.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
USGS National Wildlife Health Center



Dr. Stéphane Lair

“I perform post-mortem examinations on North Atlantic right whales to enable conservationists to document threats to this small population. The 400 NA right whales are declining primarily due to boat strikes and entanglement in fishing gear.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative
Université de Montréal

Diplomates in the Wild



Dr. Sharon Deem

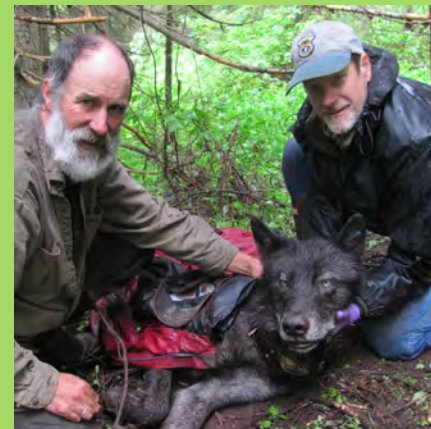
“As part of the Galapagos Tortoise Movement Ecology Programme, I lead the health studies so we may gather information on how human and domestic animals influence the health and long-term conservation of the iconic giant tortoises of Galapagos.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Saint Louis Zoo
Institute for Conservation Medicine

Dr. Mark Drew

“Wolves were returned to the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in 1995 and 1996. I help wolf biologists understand disease impacts and movements of reintroduced wolves by capturing and fitting wolves with radio-collars.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Idaho Department of Fish & Game



Dr. Robin Radcliffe

“The world’s most endangered rhinoceroses live in human dominated landscapes across Asia and Africa. We discover new knowledge by recording sounds of rhinos in Indonesian rainforests and support aerial translocation of black rhinos in Namibia.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Cornell Conservation Medicine Program
Cornell University

Diplomates in the Wild



Dr. Dave Jessup

“Our team investigated health threats to southern sea otters, drawing attention to land based protozoal parasites, enteric bacteria, anthropogenic algal toxins, and industrial pollutants. We cut in half the time required for oiled sea otters to regain water repellency.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Wildlife Disease Executive Manager (Ret.)
California Department of Fish & Wildlife (Ret.)

Dr. Sonia Hernandez

“I study how resource provisioning (handouts and landfills) influences the health, stress, immunity, ecology, and behavior of birds that are urbanizing. Many birds have been forced to move into cities as more than half of Florida’s natural wetlands have been developed.”

Wildlife Veterinarian
Warnell School of Forestry, University of Georgia



Dr. Kay Mehren

“In cooperation with governments, our team developed propagation and reintroduction programs for Vancouver Island marmots, Eastern loggerhead shrikes, black-footed ferrets, the ngege fish of Lake Victoria, and Puerto Rican crested toads.”

Veterinarian Emerita
Toronto Zoo