



BOTSTIBER INSTITUTE
FOR WILDLIFE FERTILITY CONTROL

Newsletter
Summer 2023

Mark Your Calendars

The Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control is thrilled to announce the European Wildlife Fertility Control Workshop in June 2024. Located in the historic city of York, UK, this workshop promises to be an invaluable gathering of experts, researchers, and conservationists throughout Europe. Stay tuned for more details and registration details. This is an opportunity to be a part of the conversation.



European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference, August 28 - September 1, 2023

BIWFC's Europe Director, Giovanna Massei, has been invited as a plenary speaker at the [13th European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference](#), taking place in Florence, Italy. The conference will also feature a session on wildlife fertility control, with six presentations by invited speakers. Following the session, there will be a panel discussion involving a group of experts who will be answering questions from the attendees and exchanging views on vertebrate management and conservation. The overall goal of the day dedicated to wildlife fertility control is to share the latest advancements and foster global collaboration.

TWS Annual Conference, Louisville, KY November 5-9, 2023

The Wildlife Society will host its annual conference in Louisville. BIWFC will sponsor an exhibit table. BIWFC staff will engage in sessions and workshops covering wildlife ecology, endangered species, and human-wildlife interactions.

Webinar Announcement

Eighty percent of the 600 million domestic cats in the world are stray. These cats typically experience reduced welfare as they are more likely to contract infectious diseases and be involved in traffic accidents. Currently surgical sterilization, the main strategy used for stray population control worldwide, requires



specialized equipment, trained personnel, and postoperative care, which limits its scalability. There is, therefore, a pressing need for non-surgical contraceptive alternatives that are efficient, fast-acting, and easier to implement for population control.

The BIWFC will host a **webinar** scheduled for **September 21st at Noon EDT**. Our presenters, **Philippe Godin, DVM, PhD** and **Lindsey Vansandt, DVM, PhD**, will discuss the findings of a recent proof-of-concept study that demonstrate the safety and efficacy of a novel non-surgical contraceptive in female domestic cats. This gene therapy approach, based on the adeno-associated viral vector (AAV) delivery of an Anti-Müllerian hormone (AMH) transgene, may provide a rapid, minimally invasive, and easily applied option to induce lifelong contraception for stray female domestic cats. [Register here.](#)

New Publication

We would like to announce the publication of the paper titled "Stakeholder Acceptance of Wild Equid Fertility Control Mirrors Global Shifts in Attitudes to Wildlife Management," authored by Giovanna Massei and Stephanie L. Boyles Griffin.

For an in-depth exploration, we invite you to access this contribution [here](#). Papers published on fertility control in the same issue can be found in our [repository](#) as well.

News from our Europe Office!



Building bridges between wildlife biologists and field veterinarians

Happy summer to Europe and beyond! Early June found me in Spain, attending The Zoo and Wildlife Health Conference in Valencia with ~ 500 delegates. This event was partly sponsored by the BIWFC. The vast majority of attendees were veterinarians, with a healthy mixing of students, practitioners and academics.

My main job was to co-host, with Dr. Yedra Feltrer Rambaud (founder and vice-chair of the EAZA Reproductive Management Group), a four-hour workshop on "Challenges with fertility control in the wild." The aim of the workshop was to analyze criteria that should be used when we are asked, as professionals, to consider the use of fertility control to resolve human-wildlife conflicts.

After Yedra's talk on methods and products available for fertility control, we presented attendees with ten scenarios, each focused on a particular species and context. These included wildlife and free-living livestock, urban and rural contexts, and native and non-native species (including unicorns!). For each scenario, we assumed fertility control had been chosen to mitigate the problem posed by wildlife. Participants were asked to select 1-2 scenarios and

prepare a work plan, to be later presented to other attendees, which listed the main considerations used to draw up this plan.

Twenty-one colleagues from 11 countries joined the workshop. We had many lively discussions, as groups launched themselves into their chosen scenarios. The last part of the workshop was dedicated to my short presentation on lessons learnt from several case studies and to a general discussion. The feedback was very positive, and I believe we could replicate this event in many countries around the world. Indeed, I am going to run a similar event for students at the Veterinary Medical School in Nottingham (UK) in October 2023.

The increased interest in this workshop shows the bridge between wildlife biologists and field veterinarians is growing stronger, as we are slowly starting to appreciate each other's competencies and skills. For instance, during the workshop we discussed some of the oral contraceptives increasingly advocated to address wildlife impacts. The biologists pointed out the many advantages, at population level, of using these contraceptives, whilst the vets cautioned about the safety of multiple doses -which cannot be controlled in field conditions- and the possible long-term effects for individual animals. All valid points, coming from different but equally important perspectives.

(To read more, [click here](#))

For more BIWFC Europe news check the [Europe](#) section of our website.

Wildlife Fertility Control Interactive Map

Our [Wildlife Fertility Control Map](#) provides users with the opportunity to explore areas of the world where projects are being implemented. With its detailing of target species, project focus, as well as contact information, our map includes over 25 projects throughout the world



serving as an indispensable resource. The number of "dots" are increasing, still, your help is needed. If you know of any projects that are not yet mapped, please share the information with us to further expand its coverage. Making our map even better!

Staff Update



We are delighted to welcome [Eboni S. Strickland](#) as the Program Assistant for the Botstiber Institute for Wildlife Fertility Control! Eboni's professional and academic background, along with her diverse industry positions, have honed her skills and make her an ideal fit for her role with us. Eboni's role will include supporting our initiatives, fostering collaborations and assisting in the implementation of projects that further promote our mission. We are excited to have Eboni



We are also thrilled to welcome a new team member from across the pond, [Claudia Milani-Santarpia Vargas](#). Born in Madrid and raised in Rome and London, Claudia is a recent graduate of a BSc in Environmental Science from the University of York. Her thesis focused on understanding the indigenous perspectives surrounding human-wildlife conflict amongst the Maasai communities in Kenya. Claudia will be continuing her academic journey with an MSc in

on board, and we look forward to the valuable contributions she will bring to our mission.

Conservation and Biodiversity at the University of Exeter, next September. Stay tuned for her valuable contributions to our shared mission as well.

Stay Connected with BIWFC!

BIWFC is dedicated to keeping you informed of all major developments in wildlife fertility control. We understand the importance of staying connected, and we invite you to join our social media community by following up on our socials. You will become an important part of our community that is taking part in our efforts to inform.

In addition to our social media channels, we offer a variety of other ways to stay connected with us.: Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events.



BIWFC Repository

Step into the world of wildlife fertility control with the BIWFC website's repository. As the leading resource for research in this field, we present a diverse collection of over 100 papers. The repository continues to cover a wide spectrum of research on managing wildlife populations responsibly. Our team has been actively working to expand our collection of resources and research in the field of fertility control. Please see the newest entries:

- "Implementing implants: delivery efficiency, contraceptive efficacy and population outcomes in two overabundant kangaroo populations" (**2023**)
- "Treatment with the immunocontraceptive vaccine, GonaCon, induces temporary fertility control in free-ranging prairie dog populations in Colorado (**2023**)
- "Fertility Control for Wildlife: A European Perspective (**2023**)
- "Durable contraception in the female domestic cat using viral-vectored delivery of a feline anti-Müllerian hormone transgene." (**2023**) and [more](#)

If you authored or co-authored a peer-reviewed article related to wildlife fertility control and would like your work to be included, please forward the PDF articles to estrickland@botstiber.org. We will archive your work after reviewing the publishers' policy and guidelines.

Upcoming Events

FUTURE DATES

- August 28-September 1, 2023, EVPMC (European Vertebrate Pest Management Conference) Florence, Italy.
- October 22-25, 2023, Animal Grantmakers Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- November 5-9, 2023, TWS Annual Conference, Louisville, KY
- December 5-7, 2023, Australasian Wildlife Management Conference, Melbourne

In the News

Gene Therapy May Offer Birth Control for Cats

- Scientists in the U.S. have developed a simpler and more humane method of contraception for feral cats. This approach, involving the overproduction of a hormone, shows promise in managing feral cat populations effectively and could have broader applications in wildlife conservation and invasive species control.

Click [here](#) to view more articles.

Staff

Monique Principi - Managing Director

Giovanna Massei - Director, BIWFC Europe
Rosalie Lombardo - Communications Officer
Lawrence Green - Outreach Coordinator
Ebony Strickland - Program Assistant
Claudia Milani-Santarpia Vargas - Summer Intern
Carolyn Rauch - Manager, Meetings and Events
Daniel Fullam - Multimedia Production Specialist
Stephanie Boyles Griffin - Chair, Advisory Committee



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For more information, please visit our [website](#)

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