



Cornell University
College of Veterinary Medicine

PRE-VET NEWSLETTER

October 2019



*Hear from
our Students*



Eileen,

Combined DVM/PhD student
shares her experiences at Cornell

Cornell Wildlife Health Center's Steve Osofsky on rethinking global approaches to animal health

Steven Osofsky, D.V.M. '89, Jay Hyman Professor of Wildlife Health & Health Policy, published an editorial in the most recent issue of the [Journal of Wildlife Diseases](#). The piece details how methods of addressing livestock diseases can sometimes cause significant negative impacts on other sectors (such as wildlife) and calls for more thoughtful and holistic approaches going forward. Osofsky writes, "'First, do no harm' must apply to animal health policy-making as much as these wise words apply to clinical practice."



Osofsky's piece comments on a new initiative, the [Global Burden of Animal Disease](#) assessment, which is analogous to the well-established [Global Burden of Disease](#)

initiative in public health. “Reliable, comprehensive global estimates of the direct and indirect costs of many animal diseases to society are currently lacking — hence the value of a global assessment,” Osofsky writes, noting that zoonotic and nonzoonotic diseases have billions of dollars’ worth of material impacts on, for example, food and public health systems.

Osofsky cites the example of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) in southern Africa, which has had global impacts exceeding \$22.5 billion annually. Yet this hefty price tag does not take into account the costs associated with the negative impacts of the approaches actually used to control the disease. “Over the past 70 years of using fencing as the focus of control, hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of wild animals have died due to their being impeded from undertaking seasonal migrations critical for accessing grazing and water resources,” Osofsky says. These fences have contributed to the declines of many of the region’s wildlife species, including wildebeest, hartebeest and zebra.

“Nature-based tourism now contributes as much or more to the gross domestic product of the Southern African Development Community region as do agriculture (including livestock), fisheries, and forestry combined,” Osofsky writes. “The very real impacts of FMD-related cordon fencing on the free-ranging wildlife resource should give us pause.”

In his conclusion, Osofsky notes that livestock health policy solutions must consider wildlife and associated natural resources that exist in the same landscapes.

“Only then,” Osofsky notes, “will we have a chance of yielding results that are socially, ecologically, and economically sustainable for generations to come.”

Read Osofsky’s full piece in the Journal of Wildlife Diseases [here](#).

Photo credit: M. Atkinson/AHEAD

Original article on [Cornell Vet College web site](#)

FALL ADMISSIONS PRESENTATIONS & TOURS

- Friday, November 8, 2019 from 3:00-5:00
- Open House, Saturday, April 18, 2020 (no registration required!)
- Spring Admissions Presentations & Tour schedule will be available after the first of the year.



[REGISTER](#)

Advising Appointments for Pre-Vets in NYC

- Friday, November 22, 2019 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Advising appointments for pre-vets who would like to review their preparation for a future application. Please be advised appointments are limited.



CORNELL ON-THE-ROAD

[FFA National Convention](#)

October 30-November 1, 2019

Indiana Convention Center

Indianapolis, IN

Stop by the Cornell Booth at the Exhibit Hall

[SACNAS National Diversity in STEM Conference](#)

October 31-November 1, 2019

Hawaii Convention Center

Honolulu, HI

Stop by the Cornell Veterinary College Booth at the Exhibit Hall



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