

## Ungulate Speakers:



AZA RMC Agression Management Webinar Series

# Webinar 7: Ungulates



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Saint Louis Zoo  
Animals Always®

**Participants:** 117 registered. Max observed = 55

### Guest questions:

#### Rebecca

Q: Drugs don't always start working right away. Advice or words of wisdom on proactive drug therapy? (David Powell - LIVE)

A: The more proactive you can be, the better off you are. Important to communicate the goal of the medication. Hormonal management not generally used in domestic horses (legal challenges). (Rebecca - LIVE)

#### Donna (Bronx)

Q: Do you have any breeding issues with the deer that antlers are cut back? (Angela Belcher)

A: No. We have had no issues with breeding. They still show all of their behavior. (Donna)

Q: Is everyone de-antlered? (David Powell - LIVE)

A: Yes. (Donna - LIVE)

#### Ashley (SDZWA)

Q: How much do resource values change seasonally? I'm assuming values vary over the year? (Donald Moore)

A: Depends on the resource... shade spots are much higher value in the summer, whereas sun spots are higher value in winter. Our group had definite preferred zones that never seemed to change even with modified inputs. One thing that was very telling was the shift between preferred hays/grasses. I could tell when they were heading into rut type behaviors when they became more interested in Alfalfa. I

couple days before they drop prong sheaths, they switched to a more Sudan based focus. Bermuda grass was never a high value resource for ours. (Ashley)

### **Dan (The Wilds)**

Q: (David Powell)

A: We tipped horns (Dan – LIVE)

### **Adam (Fossil Rim)**

### **All Panelists**

Q: Can you talk about dealing with risk-averse culture with staff (David Powell – LIVE)

A: We created a very specific ethogram to track behaviors and make it clear if there is an escalation, etc, particularly to help when different staff coming in on different days. Also had a documentation process for physical changes or potential injuries (includes a diagram for location/specifics of what is observed). Also discussed the “line” around running and at what point you intervene. Very specific IF THEN protocols. (Ashley - LIVE)

A: Morning meeting with animal health to get everyone on same page (small, experienced staff). New staff can learn from experience of the other staff. (Adam - LIVE)

A: It is similar here [at The Wilds]. Sometimes we have to step back and explain when we have new staff or interns, but I am a fan of letting the animals work it out. We are fortunate to have staff with a similar mindset. (Dan - LIVE)

Q: Further thoughts or reflections to share? (David Powell – LIVE)

A: Check out resources available through the URG ([www.azaungulates.org](http://www.azaungulates.org)). (Dan – LIVE)

A: Wanted to mention a new strategy – we will start a resource restriction experience prior to the introduction to get the herd into a mental space of needing the “change”. Trying to mimic movement through the wild. (Ashley – LIVE)

A: Important to understand natural history and the complexity of the social hierarchy. Know behavior and the ecology. (David – LIVE)

### **Questions through Q&A**

- Angela Belcher - Do you have any breeding issues with the deer that antlers are cut back?
  - Donna Answer - No. We have had no issues with breeding. they still show all of their behavior.
- Donald Moore - Ashley -- how much do resource values change seasonally (I'm assuming values vary over the year?)
  - Ashley answer - Depends on the resource... shade spots are much higher value in the summer, whereas sun spots are higher value in winter. Our group had definite preferred zones that never seemed to change even with modified inputs. One thing that was very telling was the shift between preferred hays/grasses. I could tell when they were heading into rut type behaviors when they became more interested in Alfalfa. I couple days before they drop prong sheaths, they switched to a more Sudan based focus. Bermuda grass was never a high value resource for our animals.

### **Chat:**

- Pharmacology webinar recording: <https://www.pathlms.com/aza-learn/courses/56110/sections/72649/webinars/44629>

- Housing & Husbandry Approaches webinar recording: <https://www.pathlms.com/aza-learn/courses/56110/sections/72649/webinars/42463>
- Webinar Survey: <https://www.pathlms.com/aza-learn/courses/56110/sections/72649/surveys/85213>

**Other comments**

- Ungulate Resource Group (URG) is a resource for ungulate advice [www.azaungulates.org](http://www.azaungulates.org)
- Evaluation Link: <https://www.pathlms.com/aza-learn/courses/56110/sections/72649/surveys/85213>