

I am a PhD candidate in the department of Animal Biosciences using a mixed methods approach to assess the health and welfare of eastern cottontails in wildlife rehabilitation. I also hold both a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Animal Biology and M.Sc. in Animal Biosciences from the University of Guelph. Throughout my academic career, I have developed a very strong background in biology and a thorough understanding of the scientific method and research writing from literature searching, collecting data, conducting statistical analyses (using R and SAS), to developing research questions and hypotheses.

My experience with animals extends beyond my academic career and I have both practical and theoretical experience with a variety of animals. My experience is diverse and includes job shadowing at Elgin Animal Hospital as well as interning and supervising at Shades of Hope Wildlife Refuge. My work experience has given me exposure to a variety of companion and wild animals, which has allowed me to apply and develop my theoretical knowledge of wildlife health, behaviour, and physiology as well as better understand the role of veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, and other key stakeholders. My leadership and passion for animal education is demonstrated through my continued collaboration with rehabilitation centers in Ontario. I work alongside four different centers for my current PhD project and offer animal care assistance, while collecting data for two of my thesis chapters. I continue to develop this knowledge through research as my current project involves improving rehabilitation of eastern cottontails through determining best practice.

In addition to these qualifications, I have previous experience as a teaching assistant and tutor for students at the University of Guelph, for first to third year courses. In addition, I led a workshop series for the University of Guelph Arboretum (July 2022), related to “what to do when you find a baby wild animal.” The presentations for these workshops included natural history, behaviour, and the steps to take when you encounter a wild animal. From these experiences, I have developed excellent organizational, leadership, and interpersonal skills with a passion for teaching and biology. These qualities are further demonstrated through my volunteer experience with CoBUMP and executive duties with the Ontario Chapter of the Wildlife Society. I have a comprehensive animal biology background with a thorough understanding of the scientific method.