

Lauren Stanton, M.Sc.

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Research Interests

Animal behavior and cognition; animal welfare and enrichment; conservation; wildlife management; public education

Education

- 2014 – Present **Doctor of Philosophy Candidate – Program in Ecology**
University of Wyoming, Adviser: Sarah Benson-Amram, Ph.D.
- 2013 **Master of Science – Animal Behavior**
Manchester Metropolitan University
Thesis: *A standardized ethogram for the Felidae: A tool for behavioral researchers*
Awarded with Distinction (high honors)
- 2007 **Bachelor of Science – Animal Sciences**
University of Maryland

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Stanton, L. and Benson-Amram, S. *in prep* “Patterns of learning and problem solving in a wild population of raccoons.”

Fanelli, R., **Stanton, L.**, McDonald, D., and Benson-Amram, S. *in prep* “Juveniles play a central role in the social network of wild raccoons.”

Barret, L., **Stanton, L.**, and Benson-Amram, S. *in prep* “The cognition of ‘nuisance’ animals.” For a special issue in *Animal Behaviour*.

Stanton, L., Davis, E., Johnson, S., Gilbert, A., and Benson-Amram, S. 2017. “Adaptation of the Aesop’s Fable paradigm for use with raccoons (*Procyon lotor*): considerations for future application in non-avian and non-primate species.” *Animal Cognition*.

Stanton, L., Sullivan, M., and Fazio, J. 2015. “A Standardized Ethogram for the Felidae: A Tool for Behavioral Researchers.” *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* (173)3-16.

In the Media

- 2017 **Daily Mail:** “Watch clever raccoons solve Aesop's Crow and the Pitcher puzzle to get floating marshmallows”
2017 **BBC World Service:** “Meet the Raccoons that solved an ancient puzzle”
2016 **Wyoming Public Radio:** “From Pests to Puzzle Solvers, Scientists Study Laramie's Raccoons”
2015 **Critter Patter Radio Show:** “Interview with the University of Wyoming Raccoon Project”
2015 **Laramie Boomerang:** “Keeping Watch”

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

- 2017 **Graduate Research Fellowship**, Wyoming NASA Space Grant Consortium
2017 **Student Research and Creative Activities Grant**, Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources
2016 **Travel Award**, EPSCoR Wyoming Women in Science and Engineering Program
2016 **Outreach Award**, Laramie Audubon Society
2014 **L Floyd Clarke Graduate Scholar Award**, University of Wyoming
2011 **Vice-Chancellor Scholarship**, Manchester Metropolitan University

Research Presentations & Invited Talks

- 2017 **Learning, problem solving, and behavioral flexibility in raccoons and striped skunks**
54th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Toronto, Canada

- 2017 **Learning, problem solving, and behavioral flexibility in raccoons and striped skunks**
International Urban Wildlife Conference, San Diego, CA
- 2017 **University of Wyoming Raccoon Project: Who We Are**
Presented with Rachel Fanelli (current UWRP manager) for the Izaak Walton League of America
- 2016 **Community Outreach with the University of Wyoming Raccoon Project**
Presented with Rachel Fanelli (current UWRP manager) for the Laramie Audubon Society
- 2016 **Investigation of Causal Understanding in Raccoons Using the Aesop's Fable Paradigm**
53th Annual Conference of the Animal Behavior Society, Columbia, MO
- 2015 **Problem Solving in Human-Altered Environments**
2015 Communicating Science Public Event, Altitude Chophouse and Brewery, Laramie
- 2014 **Ex Situ Work with Wildlife and Exotic Animals**
The Wildlife Society (student chapter), University of Wyoming
- 2013 **A Standardized Ethogram for the Felidae: A Tool for Behavioral Researchers**
2013 Association of Zoos and Aquariums Felid TAG Meeting, Jacksonville, FL

Public Education & Outreach Events

- 2017 **Tour de Coop** – Distributed materials at a predator-proofing workshop hosted by Laramie Local Foods
- 2017 **Women in STEM Conference** – Presentation and activities for female middle and high school students
- 2016 **Beitel Elementary School** – Presentation on animal behavior/enrichment research for 4th grade students
- 2016 **Laramie Farmers Market** – Distributed materials about the UWRP and humane wildlife conflict resolution
- 2016 **Laramie High School** – Coordinated a lecture on animal behavior research delivered by the UWRP
- 2016 **Wyoming STEM** – Presentation and activities (e.g., camera traps, crafts, radio telemetry) for young children
- 2016 **Brain Awareness Night** – Held a booth on animal puzzles and cognition research for adults and children
- 2016 **Wyoming State Science Fair** – Presentation on animal behavior research for students of various ages
- 2016 **Women in STEM Conference** – Presentation and activities for female middle and high school students
- 2016 **Wyoming STEM** – Presentation and activities (e.g., camera traps, crafts, radio telemetry) for young children
- 2015 **Girl Scouts in Science** – Presentation and activities (e.g., making behavioral observations) on wildlife research
- 2015 **Beitel Elementary School** – Presentation and activities (camera traps, radio telemetry) for 4th grade students
- 2015 **Laramie Farmer's Market** – Distributed materials about the UWRP and humane wildlife conflict resolution
- 2015 **Albany County Public Library** – Presentation and activities (e.g., camera traps, radio telemetry) for “tweens”
- 2015 **Albany County Public Library** – Presentation and activities (e.g., camera traps, crafts) for young children

Teaching Experience

- 2017 **Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Wyoming
- 2016 **Mammalogy** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Wyoming
- 2016 **Advanced Animal Behavior** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Wyoming
- 2015 **Zoology** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Wyoming
- 2014 **Biology** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Wyoming
- 2009 **English (as a second language)** - CCAA (language School), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2005 **Photography** – Teaching Assistantship, University of Maryland

Mentorship

To date, I have mentored nine University of Wyoming undergraduate students who either worked directly with me or as technicians for the broader University of Wyoming Raccoon Project. Each student is received training on many aspects of our work, which includes monitoring the local raccoon population using trail cameras, tracking the raccoons using radio telemetry, data management, raccoon immobilization, and participating in public outreach and education. Those students that work directly with me gain additional experience conducting experiments and behavioral coding.

Selected Work & Research Experience

- 2015 – 2016 **Project Manager** – University of Wyoming Raccoon Project
Managed the UWRP (e.g., monitoring wild raccoons, humane trapping and handling of raccoons, data collection, and public outreach.) and mentored seven undergraduate students.

- 2013 – 2014 **Animal Keeper** – Maryland Zoo in Baltimore
Responsible for the care and enrichment of southern white rhino, plains zebra, African leopard, various African birds, arctic fox and polar bear.
- 2010 – 2013 **Veterinary Technician** – Maryland Avian and Exotic Veterinary Care
Independently administered veterinary care and assisted lead veterinarian in appointments and surgical procedures. Species included various birds, reptiles, and small mammals kept as pets.
- 2008 – 2009 **Wildlife Recovery Intern** – Centros de Triagem de Animais Silvestres
Managed the care of South American wildlife at a federal rehabilitation center in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 2007 – 2011 **Behavioral Research Intern & Keeper Aide** – Smithsonian National Zoological Park
Performed data collection and analysis of sloth bear behavioral research, and supported animal keepers with the care, maintenance, and enrichment of various wild and endangered animals.
- 2002 – 2003 **Rehabilitation Intern** – Second Chance Wildlife Center
Responsible for the care and release of various North American birds, reptiles and mammals.