

CURRICULUM VITAE
JENNIE K. WILLIS

Department of Biology
Colorado State University
Work Phone: (970) 491-2993

Email: jennie.willis@colostate.edu

Web: www.biology.colostate.edu/graduates/pzaasm
www.facebook.com/csupsms

PRESENT POSITION

Graduate Program Coordinator, Professional Science Master's Degree Program in Zoo, Aquarium and Animal Shelter Management Colorado State University
Instructor of Animal Behavior, Department of Biology Colorado State University
Applied Animal Behaviorist, Animal Behavior Insights, LLC Fort Collins, Colorado

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Aggression in pet and zoo animals, compulsive behavior disorder, exploration of choice and control for animals in captive settings, shelter animal welfare and adoption outcomes, low stress restraint and handling in zoo animals, effects of enrichment in reduction of stereotypes and improvement of social relationships in zoo animals, cognitive enrichment, comparative cognition

EDUCATION

Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Ph.D., Zoology, *Emphasis Area: Animal Behavior*, May 2005

- Candidate for Teacher Licensure, Secondary Science Endorsement

M.S. Zoology, *Emphasis Area: Genetics*, August 1998

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Butterfly Pavillion, Westminster, CO *Research Associate, Principal Investigator* 2018- present
- Welfare evaluation in tarantulas: Giving choice and control
 - Diet diversity and growth in Assassin Bugs
 - Firefly behavior and husbandry practices
- Larimer County Humane Society, Fort Collins, CO *Principal Investigator* 2017-present
- Evaluation of the Effect of Food Puzzle Toys for Kennel-housed Dogs
- Aurora Animal Shelter, Aurora, CO *Principal Investigator* 2017-present
- Does Food Enrichment Improve the Experience of Dogs in Long Term Care?
- Pueblo Zoo, Pueblo, CO *Principal Investigator* 2017-present
- Learning Symbols for Enrichment Allows Animals Greater Choice in Their Care
- Denver Zoo, Denver, CO *Co-investigator* 2016- present
- Effects of Carcass Feeding on Social Behavior in African Wild Dogs, Lions and Hyenas
 - Evaluation of Enrichment for California Sea Lions
 - Mating Vocalizations and Differential Development in the Lake Titicaca Frog
- Origins Primate Research, *Co-investigator* 2013-present
- Do Relationship and Experience With Human Caregivers Influence Reliance on Gaze for Information in a Hidden Food Problem in a Pygmy Marmoset?
 - Behavioral Evaluation of the Use of Vision in Learning Labels in Pygmy Marmoset

- Are Pygmy Marmosets Able to Dual Label Objects?

Laboratory Animal Research, CSU *Principal Investigator*

2011-Present

- Development of an Ethogram to Measure Welfare in Guinea Pigs
- Enrichment of Laboratory Research Dogs
- Temperament Assessment in Dogs Before and After Socialization

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Graduate Coordinator for the PSM Degree Program in Zoo, Aquarium and Animal Shelter Management Program 8/13 to present

- Establish and maintain connections with organizations for students to conduct their master's projects and to facilitate guest speakers
- Advised students in the PSM program and helped facilitate student communications with their mentors
- Reviewed and refined project proposals and papers for internship projects
- Coordinated students with their mentors at outside private and public organizations
- Organized field trips to zoos, aquariums and shelters to allow students to have practical hands on experience prior to their projects
- Organized a practical rotation of experience between Animal House
- Developed new curriculum for the program
 - Outlined relevant topics for a four-semester progression of relevant topics for year-specific courses
 - NSCI 601-Ethics course for PSM students
 - NSCI 611-Leadership course for PSM students
 - NSCI 621- Communications course for PSM students
 - NSCI 631- Marketing course for PSM students
- Organized seminar and training courses
 - Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) Training through NAI
 - Guest speakers for NSCI 693

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2017 Assistant to Chair of National PSM Association 6MP Graduate Student Symposium
- 2017 SAWA Conference Committee Member
 - Chair of 2018 Shelter Science Poster Presentation
- 2014 to present Animal Care and Use Committee Member- Origins Primate Research Center
- 2013 to present- Animal Ethics Reviewer- Animal Behavior Society
- 2013 to present-Recurrent guest lecture VM711- PVM Sophomores- Recognizing pain and distress in companion animals
- 2013to present-Recurrent guest lecture VM 610 PVM Freshman Foundations- Why behavior matters in veterinary medicine
- 2014 Reviewer of Wellspring, Animal Behavior Management Alliance
- 2014 Science Club Development Committee, McGraw Elementary

PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT

- 2018 National Academy of Sciences Teaching Facilitator
- 2015-2016 National Academy of Sciences Fellow
- 2014 CIG- Certified Interpretive Guide (NAI)

- 2014 Ethics Infusion Program Graduate- CSU
- 2011 and 2012 TILT Summer Conference in Teaching and Learning

SPECIAL SKILLS AND ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

- Bilingual- Spanish Speaker
- President, Colorado Greyhound Companions, Fort Collins, CO 2004-2006
- Vice-president, Colorado Greyhound Companions, Fort Collins, CO 2000-2004

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Willis, JK., JM Cavarra, LV Kendall. Food enrichment of laboratory beagles: behavioral benefits and durability concerns. Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. 2013. 52(5):608.

[\[http://aalas.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/aalas/jaalas/2013/00000052/00000005/art00014\]](http://aalas.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/aalas/jaalas/2013/00000052/00000005/art00014).

Willis, JK., JM Cavarra, K Bruner, LV Kendall. Teaching students and improving animal welfare through socialization in a higher education facility. Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science. 2013.

52(5):662. [\[http://aalas.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/aalas/jaalas/2013/00000052/00000005/art00014\]](http://aalas.publisher.ingentaconnect.com/content/aalas/jaalas/2013/00000052/00000005/art00014).

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 Veterinary Teaching Hospital Open House
- 2017 Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association Symposium Speaker
- 2016 Veterinary Teaching Hospital Open House
- 2015 SAVMA- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- 2014 SAVMA- Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association
- 2014 Behavior Symposium CSU
- 2013 Larimer County Veterinary Medical Association
- 2013 Feline Elimination
- 2013 Behavior Symposium CSU
- 2012 Siberian Husky National Specialty
- 2012 Wyoming Veterinary Medical Association

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Animal Behavior Society (ABS)
- Society for Animal Welfare Administrators (SAWA)
- American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior (AVSAB)
- Animal Behavior Management Alliance (AMBA)
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)
- American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS)
- National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT)
- Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT)
- National Association of Interpretation (NAI)
- Better Business Bureau (BBB)