

WHISPers Metadata for the General User

Field Name	Field Type	Short Description	Detailed Description	Does this Field Autopopulate or Default?
Event ID	Number	Unique identifier for an event.	Unique identifier for an event.	Autopopulates
Event Type	List of Options	<p>Mortality/Morbidity: A wildlife morbidity or mortality event is a noteworthy occurrence of one or more sick or dead animals clustered in space and time.</p> <p>Surveillance: Live animal surveillance data represents positive detections of a pathogen during active surveillance of healthy live, hunter-killed, or euthanized animals (that were not sick before euthanizing).</p> <p>If event has both morbidity/mortality AND was a surveillance effort (e.g., went to cave to swab live bats but also found dead bats), enter as two separate events (one morbidity/mortality, one surveillance).</p>	<p>Mortality/Morbidity: A wildlife morbidity or mortality event is a noteworthy occurrence of one or more sick or dead animals clustered in space and time.</p> <p>Mortality/morbidity events can include any or all of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · trigger cause for concern and warrant reporting by natural resource managers · cross political boundaries such as municipal, county, or state lines · involve multiple species and/or multiple diagnoses · be compromised of individuals with similar clinical signs and/or diagnoses · be related to environmental conditions · be significant to population(s) of species affected · reveal new pathogens, or range or temporal expansion of existing pathogens <p>Surveillance: Live animal surveillance data represents positive detections of a pathogen during active surveillance of healthy live, hunter-killed, or euthanized animals (that were not sick before euthanizing).</p> <p>If event has both morbidity/mortality AND was a surveillance effort (e.g., went to cave to swab live bats but also found dead bats), enter as two separate events (one morbidity/mortality, one surveillance).</p>	No
Event Start Date	Date	Beginning date of the event (considering all locations).	Beginning date of the event (considering all locations). Earliest date from locations to be used at event level. Not editable at event level. MM/DD/YYYY	Autopopulates
Event End Date	Date	Ending date of the event (considering all locations).	Ending date of the event (considering all locations). If 1 or more location end dates is blank then WHISPers will leave event end date blank, otherwise WHISPers will display latest date from locations. Not editable at event level. MM/DD/YYYY	Autopopulates
Number Affected	Number	Total number affected in event. A count of sick plus dead animals for a morbidity/mortality event and a count of positives for a surveillance event.	Total number affected in event. A count of sick plus dead animals for a mortality/morbidity event (using either known or estimated numbers, whichever is higher) and a count of positives for a surveillance event. Not editable at event level.	Autopopulates
Event Diagnosis	List of Options	<p>The overall main reason(s) for illness and/or death across all locations and species and thus the major cause(s) of the event, or a diagnosis deemed significant enough to list at the event level for situational awareness.</p> <p>Options presented are those diagnoses entered at the species level. If nothing else selected by user, defaults to "Pending" for "Incomplete" events or "Undetermined" for "Complete" events.</p>	<p>The overall main reason(s) for illness and/or death across all locations and species and thus the major cause(s) of the event, or a diagnosis deemed significant enough to list at the event level for situational awareness.</p> <p>Options presented are those diagnoses entered at the species level. If nothing else selected by user, defaults to "Pending" for "Incomplete" events or "Undetermined" for "Complete" events.</p>	Defaults to "Pending" for "Incomplete" events or "Undetermined" for "Complete" events
County (or equivalent)	List of Options	County of location (or equivalent, such as parish or borough in the United States). If event encompasses multiple counties, create separate locations for each.	County of location (or equivalent, such as parish or borough in the United States). If event encompasses multiple counties, create separate locations for each. Options provided are determined by state selected and are based on Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes.	No
State (or equivalent)	List of Options	State of location (or equivalent, such as provinces or territories in Canada).	State of location (or equivalent, such as provinces or territories in Canada). Options provided are determined by country selected and are based on International Organization of Standardization (ISO) 3166 codes.	No
Country	List of Options	Country of location.	Country of location. Options are based on International Organization of Standardization (ISO) 3166 codes.	Defaults to "United States"
Location Start Date	Date	Estimated beginning date of the event at this location.	Estimated beginning date of the event at this location. MM/DD/YYYY	No
Location End Date	Date	Estimated ending date of the event at this location.	Estimated ending date of the event at this location. MM/DD/YYYY	No
WHISPers Record Status	List of Options	"Complete" if the event has ended, diagnostic tests are finalized, and all information is updated in WHISPers. Otherwise, "Incomplete".	<p>"Complete" if the event has ended, diagnostic tests are finalized, and all information is updated in WHISPers. Otherwise, "Incomplete".</p> <p>When the record is marked as "Complete" then data are locked except for ability to add comments. Only the event owner (or higher hierarchical roles) can reverse the WHISPers record status from "Complete" to "Incomplete".</p> <p>WHISPers record can only be "Complete" when all fields required to complete an event are filled in.</p>	Defaults to "Incomplete"

Field Name	Field Type	Short Description	Detailed Description	Does this Field Autopopulate or Default?
Contact Organization	List of Options	Organization(s) to display to general public for them to contact regarding general inquiries about the event. If correct organization is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard.	Organization(s) to display to general public for them to contact regarding general inquiries about the event. If correct organization is not listed, request a new option via the dashboard. List of options originate from organizations table managed by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.	Defaults to event owner's organization
Species	List of Options	Species affected at this location. If correct species is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard.	Species affected at this location. If correct species is not listed in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard. Options are based on Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS).	No
Population	Number	Estimate of the maximum number of this species at this location, including live, sick, and dead.	Estimate of the maximum number of this species at this location, including live, sick, and dead. Population has to be more than or equal to sum of sick and dead.	No
Known Sick	Number	Exact minimum count of animals exhibiting clinical signs of illness at the point in time that the observation was made at this location. If site visited repeatedly, use number remaining sick/injured plus number recovered from being sick/injured. Include euthanized with sick. If 0 observed, enter 0. Details can be provided in the Comment section.	Actual count of the number of sick or injured animals of this species at this location. Include euthanized animals, if any. Use 0 if known to be 0 (instead of leaving blank). Leave blank if there is no count. Avoid re-count of animals, especially if there are repeated visits to a location to assess wildlife health. Consider whether animals initially observed sick were later counted as dead; if so, only count them as dead. Numbers reported should reflect either a snapshot of morbidity/mortality as observed during a one-time site visit, or a synopsis of the numbers affected over the course of an event (e.g., dead = cumulative dead during multiple site visits and sick = number remaining sick or recovered from being sick at the end of the event). For morbidity/mortality events, there must be at least one number (among known dead, estimated dead, known sick, and estimated sick) for at least one species in the event at the time of event initiation and at least one number per species at the time of event completion.	No
Known Dead	Number	Exact minimum count of the cumulative number of dead animals (not including euthanized) over the length of the event at this location. Include euthanized with sick. If 0 observed, enter 0. Details can be provided in the Comment section.	Actual count of the number of dead animals of this species at this location. Do NOT include euthanized animals. Use 0 if known to be 0 (instead of leaving blank). Leave blank if there is no count. Avoid re-count of animals, especially if there are repeated visits to a location to assess wildlife health. Consider whether animals initially observed sick were later counted as dead; if so, only count them as dead. Numbers reported should reflect either a snapshot of morbidity/mortality as observed during a one-time site visit, or a synopsis of the numbers affected over the course of an event (e.g., dead = cumulative dead during multiple site visits and sick = number remaining sick or recovered from being sick at the end of the event). For morbidity/mortality events, there must be at least one number (among known dead, estimated dead, known sick, and estimated sick) for at least one species in the event at the time of event initiation and at least one number per species at the time of event completion.	No
Estimated Sick	Number	Best guess of the maximum number of animals that might be showing clinical signs (include any known sick animals) at the point in time that the observation was made at this location. If site visited repeatedly, use number remaining sick/injured plus number recovered from being sick/injured. Include euthanized with sick. Details can be provided in the Comment section.	Estimate of the number of sick or injured animals of this species at this location. Use 0 if estimated to be 0 (instead of leaving blank). If estimate is unknown, or accurate count exists then can leave blank. Estimates > 0 must include number of known sick. Avoid re-count of animals, especially if there are repeated visits to a location to assess wildlife health. Consider whether animals initially observed sick were later counted as dead; if so, only count them as dead. Numbers reported should reflect either a snapshot of morbidity/mortality as observed during a one-time site visit, or a synopsis of the numbers affected over the course of an event (e.g., dead = cumulative dead during multiple site visits and sick = number remaining sick or recovered from being sick at the end of the event). Estimated sick must be higher than known sick. For morbidity/mortality events, there must be at least one number (among known dead, estimated dead, known sick, and estimated sick) for at least one species in the event at the time of event initiation and at least one number per species at the time of event completion.	No
Estimated Dead	Number	Best guess of the maximum number of animals that died (include any known dead animals) at this location over the length of the event. Include euthanized with sick. Details can be provided in the Comment section.	Estimate of the number of dead animals of this species at this location. Use 0 if estimated to be 0 (instead of leaving blank). If estimate is unknown, or accurate count exists then can leave blank. Estimates > 0 must include number of known dead. Avoid re-count of animals, especially if there are repeated visits to a location to assess wildlife health. Consider whether animals initially observed sick were later counted as dead; if so, only count them as dead. Numbers reported should reflect either a snapshot of morbidity/mortality as observed during a one-time site visit, or a synopsis of the numbers affected over the course of an event (e.g., dead = cumulative dead during multiple site visits and sick = number remaining sick or recovered from being sick at the end of the event). Estimated dead must be higher than known dead. For morbidity/mortality events, there must be at least one number (among known dead, estimated dead, known sick, and estimated sick) for at least one species in the event at the time of event initiation and at least one number per species at the time of event completion.	No
Captive	List of Options	Describes if species affected at this location are captive or not. Options are: "Wild and/or free-ranging" or "Captive >72 hours".	Describes if species affected at this location are captive or not. Options are: "Captive >72 hours" or "Wild and/or free-ranging".	Defaults to "Wild and/or free-ranging"

Field Name	Field Type	Short Description	Detailed Description	Does this Field Autopopulate or Default?
Age Bias	List of Options	Age bias in the species affected at this location. Options are: "No noticable bias" - age bias was assessed but no bias detected; "Unknown" - age bias not assessed; "Mostly young" - most animals affected were young; "Mostly adults" - most animals affected were adults.	Age bias in the species affected at this location. Options are: "No noticable bias" - age bias was assessed but no bias detected; "Unknown" - age bias not assessed; "Mostly Young" - most animals affected were young; "Mostly Adult" - most animals affected were adults.	No
Sex Bias	List of Options	Sex bias in the species affected at this location. Options are: "No noticable bias" - sex bias was assessed but no bias detected; "Unknown" - sex bias not assessed; "Mostly Male" - most animals affected were male; "Mostly Female" - most animals affected were female.	Sex bias in the species affected at this location. Options are: "No noticable bias" - sex bias was assessed but no bias detected; "Unknown" - sex bias not assessed; "Mostly Male" - most animals affected were male; "Mostly Female" - most animals affected were female.	No
Species Diagnosis	List of Options	To determine what diagnoses to provide for situational awareness, consider the following criteria: 1.) Diagnosis has been determined by a wildlife professional to be an ultimate (or underlying) cause of death or morbidity in at least one specimen examined 2.) Any reportable disease as listed by OIE or USDA 3.) those diagnoses deemed significant by the user or organization. Can select "Undetermined" if assessed and no diagnosis determined, or can leave blank. If correct diagnosis is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard.	To determine what diagnoses to provide for situational awareness, consider the following criteria: 1.) Diagnosis has been determined by a wildlife professional to be an ultimate (or underlying) cause of death or morbidity in at least one specimen examined 2.) Any reportable disease as listed by OIE or USDA 3.) those diagnoses deemed significant by the user or organization. Can select "Undetermined" if assessed and no diagnosis determined, or can leave blank. If correct diagnosis is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard. A diagnosis can only be listed once for a location and species combination. List of options originate from diagnosis table managed by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center.	No
Species Diagnosis Suspect	Checkbox	Indicates if species diagnosis is suspect or not.	Indicates if species diagnosis is suspect or not. If not suspect, a diagnosing lab must be listed (except for the "Undetermined" diagnosis, which can not be suspect). If one species has some individuals with a suspect diagnosis and other individuals with the non-suspect version of that same diagnosis, only list the non-suspect diagnosis.	Defaults to checked as "Suspect"
Number Assessed	Number	Number of individual specimens laboratory tested or examined for a specific etiology. For morbidity/mortality events, specimens will be individual animals. For surveillance events, specimens might reflect individual animals and/or environmental samples. Across diagnoses, numbers are nonadditive.	Number of individual specimens laboratory tested or examined for a specific etiology. For morbidity/mortality events, specimens will be individual animals. For surveillance events, specimens might reflect individual animals and/or environmental samples. Across diagnoses, numbers are nonadditive. Within each species diagnosis, "Number with this Diagnosis" must be less than or equal to "Number Assessed".	No
Number with this Diagnosis	Number	Number of individual specimens with the selected diagnosis (can be a suspect diagnosis). For morbidity/mortality events, specimens will be individual animals. For surveillance events, specimens might reflect individual animals and/or environmental samples. Across diagnoses, numbers are nonadditive.	Number of individual specimens with the selected diagnosis (can be a suspect diagnosis). For morbidity/mortality events, specimens will be individual animals. For surveillance events, specimens might reflect individual animals and/or environmental samples. Across diagnoses, numbers are nonadditive. Within each species diagnosis, "Number with this Diagnosis" must be less than or equal to "Number Assessed".	No
Lab	List of Options	Laboratory(ies) providing the diagnoses for a species at this location. If correct laboratory is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard.	Laboratory(ies) providing the diagnoses for a species at this location. List of options originate from records listed as laboratories in organizations table managed by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. If correct laboratory is not in dropdown, request a new option via the dashboard. Can have multiple labs for one diagnosis.	No
Event Group ID	Number	Unique identifier for an event group.	Unique identifier for an event group. Identifier has prefix of "G" for "group" to distinguish this number from the event ID. Only USGS National Wildlife Health Center can create, update, or delete; public and partners can read as permissions allow.	Autopopulates

Last updated: 1/21/2020