

American Society of Mammalogists

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Dear ASM members and colleagues –

As you know, COVID-19 is causing national and global disruptions that are unprecedented in recent decades. In the interest of the health and safety of our membership, and following discussion and a vote with the ASM Board of Directors, I am writing to let you know that we are cancelling our 2020 annual meeting, scheduled for 5-9 June in Boulder, Colorado. This is a great disappointment for me, as I am sure it is for many of you. Our annual meeting is not only a great opportunity to listen to great mammal science; it also is one of the social highlights of my year, and one that I have enjoyed almost every year since the 1984 meeting at Humboldt State University. However, I believe I speak for the Board of Directors in saying that I would rather suffer the loss of this event for one year, rather than put the health of any of you at risk. In any case, I will be working with the Board of Directors to resolve how we will address the myriad issues that typically are managed at the annual meeting. I hope to be in touch with you soon on those issues.

If you have registered for this meeting, your registration will be refunded soon. You do not need to do anything to initiate this; I have already asked our Business Office to refund these funds. You should receive an email with details of your refund. If you do not receive this by NEXT FRIDAY, 27 March, contact Christy Classi (cclassi@mammalsociety.org) to follow up; I would advise you to check your Junk or Spam folder first.

For those of you who would prefer to redirect your registration funds as a donation to the Society, please contact Christy Classi and tell her which fund you would like to assist (for the status of each named fund, see <https://asm.wildapricot.org/Donate>). Respecting the role and influence that Latin America has had on my career, I have redirected my to the Latin American Student Research Fund.

I hope you all stay well and healthy, and I look forward to seeing you next year!

Very sincerely,

Douglas A. Kelt, President