

2025 Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship Recipients

WFA received eight exceptional scholarship applications for this funding cycle. The Scholarship Committee would like to thank all the outstanding applicants who took the time to apply and is pleased to announce three winners: Laura Alvarez Boria, Omar Alejandro Ocanas Garcia, and Evelyn Gonzalez. Thanks to generous donations from several WFA members and our monthly giving program (Evergreen), Laura received the Deanna Dawn Award valued at \$2,500 while Omar and Evelyn each received scholarships of \$1,250. The Wild Felid Legacy Scholarship fund is supported entirely by donations and not by membership dues.

Laura Alvarez Boria – PhD student

University: Universidad Nacional del Comahue (Argentina), laura.alvarez.borla@comahue-conicet.gob.ar

Co-Advisors: Iliaria Agostini, ilaria.agostini@conicet.gov.ar, and Sergio Lambertucci slambertucci@comahue-conicet.gob.ar

Dissertation Title: Influence of environmental and anthropogenic factors on the felid assemblage in the temperate forests of Patagonia, Argentina.

Objectives: Evaluate the effect of environmental and anthropogenic factors on the presence and interspecific interactions of pumas (*Puma concolor*), Geoffroy's cats (*Leopardus geoffroyi*), and guiña cats (*Leopardus guigna*) in the temperate forests of northwestern Patagonia, Argentina. Particularly, this study will evaluate: 1) the probability of occupancy and activity patterns through camera trapping surveys; 2) patterns of spatial and temporal co-occurrence and dietary overlap as indicators of potential interspecific competitive relationships among carnivores and how they vary in response to anthropogenic impacts; 3) develop conservation strategies for felids in the temperate forest of Argentina particularly focused on the guiña, the least known and most threatened species.



Omar Alejandro Ocañas García - PhD student

University: Posgrado Conjunto Agronomía-Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia UANL,
omar.ocanasgrc@uanl.edu.mx

Advisor: Rogelio Carrera-Treviño, *rogelio.carreratr@uanl.edu.mx*

Dissertation Title: Distribution, genetic diversity and diseases of ocelots in northeastern Mexico

Objectives: The ocelot, considered as an endangered species in Mexico has become the centerpiece of my professional ambitions—both for its ecological importance and its vulnerability to habitat fragmentation, poaching and road mortality. The aim is to assess ocelot distribution, habitat corridors, genetic diversity, and diseases across fragmented populations that will aid in science-based management strategies in the region.

Evelyn Gonzalez – PhD student

University: Faculty of Natural Sciences and Health Sciences, National University of Patagonia San Juan Bosco, *evelynrociobelen@gmail.com*

Advisor: Daniel E. Udrizar Sauthier,
dsauthier18@gmail.com

Dissertation Title: Regional variation in the structure of wild felid communities in Argentine Patagonia

Objectives: Analyze the structure of the felid assemblage in extra-Andean Patagonia by investigating how these species use space and time in relation to interspecific interactions and environmental, climatic, and anthropogenic variables.

