

# Brianna M. Wilson

[brianna.mon.wilson@gmail.com](mailto:brianna.mon.wilson@gmail.com)

(785) 501-9474

3554 Morning Dove Circle, Lawrence, KS 66049

## Education

---

**BS** Washburn University; Topeka, Kansas  
Bachelor of Science in Environmental Biology; Overall GPA: 3.66

University of New England 2022 (4 credit hours)

Kansas State University 2019-2021 (42 credit hours)

Colby Community College 2021(8 credit hours)

Allen Community College 2020 (6 credit hours)

## Honors

---

Magna Cum Laude Latin Honors

Graduated Spring 2023

Biology Honors

Graduated Spring 2023

Dean's List

Fall 2019 – Spring 2022

## Relevant Professional Experience

---

### **KC Pet Project**

**July 2023 - Present**

*Canine Adoption Counselor*

Full time paid position (36+ hours/week) in KC, MO facilitating dog adoptions for the animal shelter. Also perform secretarial duties, customer service, and assist with canine care as needed. Maddie's University CE and Fear Free Certified.

### **Family Pet Hospital**

**April 2022 – May 2023**

*Kennel Technician Employment Position*

Part time (12-16 hours/week) paid position in Topeka, KS providing care to boarding animals during college. Help around the clinic as needed.

### **Tender Loving Care Pet Nursing Hotel**

**June 2021 – December 2022**

*Kennel Assistant Employment Position*

Worked in a paid, part time (8-32 hours/week) position in Topeka, KS during college. Answered the phone, cleaned kennels, cared for animals, provided medication, and performed transactions.

### **Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center Internship**

**Fall 2021**

*Animal Care Internship*

Part time (9 hours/week) semester internship position performed daily zookeeper tasks. Learned skills in habitat cleanliness, animal diets, cognitive enrichment, and understanding animal behavior throughout the entire zoo. Completed a pronghorn enrichment project and presented my design and findings.

### **TimberCreek Veterinary Hospital**

**Nov 2020 - June 2021**

*Kennel Technician Employment Position*

Part time (20 hours/week) paid position in Manhattan, KS. Primarily cared for boarding pets. Learned general veterinary practices such as skills in medication administration, vaccine preparation, fecal test performance, animal restraint, and assisted clients.

## Research Experience

---

### **Washburn University; Ornate Box Turtle Telemetry**

**Fall 2021 - Present**

*Research Assistance (25 hours)*

*Supervised by Dr. Benjamin Reed*

Assisted in the use of radio telemetry to locate Ornate Box Turtles. Recorded information regarding microhabitat and behavior, occasionally collecting individual turtles to bring to the lab and assist with behavioral assays. When in the lab, the turtles are observed in behavior assays and processed by taking photos, measurements, collecting oral DNA swabs, and more.

### **Washburn University; Cognition/Behavior Summer Research Summer 2022 - Present**

*Research Project (15 weeks)*

*Summer Research at Cedar Point Biological Station; Supervised by Dr. Benjamin Reed*

Developed a study on box turtle cognition. Designed and implemented the study throughout the summer 2022. In summer 2023, conducted field behavior tests to compare lab and field data.

Used radio telemetry to locate turtles and recorded relevant information. Presented findings at multiple conferences and currently in the process of writing a paper.

## Presentations

---

Primary author:

### **Kansas Herpetological Society Research Conference (Poster)**

**November 4, 2023**

#### **Comparison of Field and Lab Behavior and Mirror Responses of Ornate Box Turtles**

**(*Terrapene ornata*)**

**Wilson B**, Kim S, Trautman A, Brighton K, Gulder E, Wagner P, Mercader R, Reed BM. 2023.

Comparison of field and lab behavior and mirror responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) in Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

### **North American Box Turtle Conservation Committee (Poster)**

**September 30, 2023**

#### **Comparison of Field and Lab Behavior and Mirror Responses of Ornate Box Turtles**

**(*Terrapene ornata*)**

**Wilson B**, Kim S, Trautman A, Brighton K, Gulder E, Wagner P, Mercader R, Reed BM. 2023.

Comparison of field and lab behavior and mirror responses of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) in Nebraska. North American Box Turtle Conservation Workshop. University of North Georgia, Gainesville, GA.

### **Apeiron Conference at Washburn (Poster)**

**April 21, 2023**

#### **Ecological consequences of cognition in *Terrapene Ornata***

**Wilson B**, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A,

Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Ecological Consequences of Cognition in *Terrapene ornata*. Apeiron. Washburn University, Topeka, KS.

### **Midwest Ecology and Evolution Conference (Poster)**

**April 2, 2023**

#### **Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata***

**Wilson B**, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt, A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A,

Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*. Midwest Ecology and Evolution. University of Louisville, Louisville, KY.

**Kansas Herpetological Society Research Conference (Poster) Nov 6, 2022**  
**Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata***

**Wilson B**, Wagner P, Brighton K, Chanay M, Gauntt, A, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Speer T, Wagner S, Reed BM. 2022. Learning and BT in *Terrapene ornata*. Kansas Herpetological Meetings. Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO.

Co-Author:

**Washburn Transformational Experience Conference (Poster) Nov 10, 2023**

Guldner E, Munsell K, Brighton K, Trautman A, **Wilson B**, Wagner P, Speer T, Edlund Z, Reed BM. 2023. Examining factors that may affect nesting times of Ornate Box Turtles in Western Nebraska. Day of Transformation, Washburn University, Topeka, KS

**KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4, 2023**

Guldner E, Munsell K, Brighton K, Trautman A, **Wilson B**, Wagner P, Speer T, Edlund Z, Reed BM. 2023. Examining factors that may affect nesting times of Ornate Box Turtles in Western Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

**KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4, 2023**

Lewis M, Schenk C, Speer T, Pierre R, Prout-Benoit M, Graham T, Kearns C, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Comparative analyses of microhabitat associations across different populations of *Terrapene ornata*. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

- Walter Meshaka Award for Best Poster in Ecology

**KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4, 2023**

Speer T, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Movement ecology of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) across different life stages. Kansas Herpetological Society Meetings, Kansas University, Lawrence, KS.

**NABTCC Research Conference (Poster) Sep 30, 2023**

Speer T, Brighton K, Edlund Z, Gulder E, Kim S, Munsell K, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2023. Movement ecology of Ornate Box Turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) across different life stages. North American Box Turtle Conservation Workshop. University of North Georgia, Gainesville, GA.

**KHS Research Conference (Poster) Nov 4-6, 2022**

Brighton K, Munsell K, Gauntt A, Speer T, Trautman A, Wagner P, **Wilson B**, Reed BM. 2022. Examining the reproductive ecology of *Terrapene ornata* in western Nebraska. Kansas Herpetological Meetings. Missouri Southern State University, Joplin, MO.

## Grants

---

**Student Research Development Grant Feb 22, 2023**

*Washburn Student Government Association Grant*

Proposed and received \$2000 grant with co-researcher to attend the Conference on Comparative Cognition in Melbourne, Florida, April 12-15, 2023.

**WTE Research Grant Nov 11, 2022**

*Washburn Transformational Experience Grant*

Wrote and received a \$1000 grant to continue turtle cognition research during summer 2023.

## CE Credits

---

### Maddie's University

<b>HASS: Adoption Requirements vs. Open Adoptions: A Conversation</b>	<b>January 3, 2024</b>
1 credited hour Certified Animal Welfare Administrator	
<b>Let Them Go Home-Increasing Adoptions</b>	<b>January 3, 2024</b>
1 credited hour Certified Animal Welfare Administrator	
<b>Fears, Facts and Forever Homes: What We Know About Free Pet Adoptions</b>	<b>January 3, 2024</b>
1.50 credited hours Certified Animal Welfare Administrator	
<b>MMPC Learniverse-The Power of Yes!</b>	<b>November 20, 2023</b>
1 credited hour Certified Animal Welfare Administrator	

## Certifications

---

### **R Programming A-Z: R for Data Science with Real Exercises!** **In Progress**

#### *Udemy Online Certification*

Taught by Kirill Eremenko and the Ligency Team. Class covers introduction to data analytics, data science, statistical analysis, packages, functions, and GGPlot2. Currently in progress.

### **GRT Handling Certification** **June 6, 2022**

*General Regulation Training Certificate for wildlife handling related to research*

Expires 06/06/2027.

## Involvement

---

### **Washburn University Biology Club** **Fall 2021 - Present**

#### *Positions*

- Co-Historian: Work on social media presence-post informational and educational content, take photos/videos, and inspire students to attend club events (Feb 1, 2023-May 15, 2023 upon graduation)

#### *Activities*

- Bird Banding (12 hours): learned process by in-person observation
- Attended guest speaker seminars
  - o Dr. Erika Weirman ultrasound seminar and demonstration (April 25, 2022)
- Participated in creation of ecological audio tour of Washburn's campus koi pond
- Gave a 5-minute presentation over epigenetics of trauma (Nov 16, 2022)
- Gave a 5-minute presentation over "dognition" research from Dr. Gregory Berns' lab (Nov 16, 2022)

#### *Volunteering*

- Assist in collection and management of 2 and 5 plastics from Washburn and local businesses to donate to NexTrex (1 hour/week, spring 2023, Topeka, KS)
- Co-host adaptations-themed rotation for Christ the King 3<sup>rd</sup> grade field trip (3/3/23, 2 hours, Topeka, KS)
- Worked Biology stand at Majors and Minors Fair at Washburn University (2/22/23, 1 hour, Topeka, KS)
- Fundraising for KAW River Restoration (2 hours, Topeka, KS)
- Trash clean up at Shunga Creek (2 hours, Topeka, KS)

## **Kansas State University Equestrian Club**

**Fall 2020**

### *Photographer*

Attended team meetings, participated in discussion, helped at the ranch, and took pictures during practice and competitions for the team.

## **Volunteer and Outreach**

---

### **KC Pet Project; Home Dog Foster**

**December 9 - December 22, 2023**

#### *In-Home Pet Fostering (2 weeks)*

Brought a shelter pet into my home to care for and prepare for adoption (Ollie).

### **Operation Wildlife; Lawrence, Kansas**

**February 22, 2022 – December 22, 2022**

#### *Animal Rehabilitation Volunteer (130+ hours)*

Learned and practiced skills necessary to help rehabilitate displaced and injured wildlife.

Continue to volunteer as my schedule allows.

### **Young Nebraska Scientists; Ogallala, Nebraska**

**June 9, 2022**

#### *Volunteer Research Presentation*

Gave a field presentation over the scientific process of my cognition research to a group of YNS students at Cedar Point Biological Station.

### **T. Russell Reitz Animal Shelter; Manhattan, Kansas**

**Sep 29, 2020 – Feb 23, 2021**

#### *Facility Volunteer (9 hours)*

Kept up with cleanliness of building: completed laundry, swept, mopped, wiped surfaces, and cleaned dishes.

### **Ad Astra; Topeka, Kansas**

**April 22, 2023**

#### *Volunteer Demonstration (3 hours)*

Gave demonstration / explanation of radio telemetry and discussed turtle ecology and significance to children of a broad age range.

## **Skills**

---

- Proficiency in Microsoft products
- Organizing and presenting research
- Problem solving and creative thinking
- Animal care-pets and experience with zoo animals
- Strong background in animal behavior recognition
- Effective communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Maintaining accurate documentation practices
- Analytical thinking and application
- Basic understanding in Rstudio
- Radio Telemetry
- Data collection
- Data entry
- Field work
- Non-profit experience
- Customer service