

WILD ANIMAL HEALTH FUND



The Przewalski's horse is a flagship species for the role of *ex situ* programs in wildlife conservation; formerly extinct in the wild, this species has been successfully reintroduced to its former natural range in Mongolia and China thank to international zoo-based conservation breeding programs. The Wild Animal Health Fund project is developing anaesthetic options for this species to improve the safety of anaesthetic events.

Our Mission

The mission of the Wild Animal Health Fund is to raise funds and apply those funds to critical research that optimize the health, welfare and sustainability of zoo animals and wildlife in all habitats.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Wild Animal Health (WAHF) has consistently grown since its founding in 2012. After only seven short years we are funding over \$100,000 of research annually. And there is so much exciting work left to do. We are already receiving over a half million dollars in requests per year.

This work is critical to supporting zoo veterinarians on the front line of global conservation efforts. It is the only fund dedicated exclusively to supporting zoo animal and wildlife veterinary research. Your donation directly helps veterinarians develop the knowledge and tools to even more positively impact the broadest range of species. Your support has incredible impact, there is so little known about the veterinary needs of these animals that even modest grants contribute to ground-breaking gains in knowledge.

I am particularly excited about the diversity of animals helped through these grants. From well-known, charismatic mammals such as elephants to more obscure, cryptic invertebrates such as horseshoe crabs, the WAHF has directly increased our ability to improve the lives of all types of animals. And, for many of these species, there are almost no other funding options.

The people working with these animals, on the front line of conservation, are incredibly dedicated, talented, and passionate. Come share in their passion for saving animals by supporting the WAHF.



Leigh Clayton
DVM, DABVP &
eMBA;
VP, Animal Care
New England
Aquarium;
AAZV President

AT A GLANCE

\$666,846 Funded animal health studies since 2012	\$140,000 Budgeted for the 2020 approved projects
57 Different animal species benefiting	79 Funded animal health studies since 2012
366 Number of applications received since 2012	284 Total number of projects left on the table since 2012

New Research in 2019



Tortoise team sampling a wild tortoise in Santa Cruz Island. Photo credits: José Haro, CDF.

Assessing the Health of the critically endangered Eastern Santa Cruz Galapagos tortoise (*Chelonoidis donfaustoi*)

Deem, S.L., Nieto Claudin, A., and Apakupakul, K. – Awarded funds in 2019

Galapagos tortoises are one of the most well-known animals in the world. However, few studies have been conducted that look at threats to their health and how the cohabitation with domestic animals and humans may affect the survival of these iconic animals. This project will obtain much needed information on the health status of giant tortoises living on the most populated island of the Galapagos archipelago. Our main outcomes for this project are to: 1) obtain results of the presence of pathogens and antibiotic resistance in Eastern Santa Cruz giant tortoises from human to non-human modified landscapes, 2) compare the health status of both Santa Cruz tortoise species, and 3) use these data for tortoise conservation management planning.

Through our work, we will provide the community with positive actions they may take to help the health and conservation of wildlife

and ecosystems on which ultimately all people of Galapagos are dependent for their livelihoods.

Endangered Pink Pigeon Health Screening Complete



Adult pink pigeon after full health check and disease screening. Photo credit S. Shopland

Disease risk assessment of the EEP (European Endangered Species Programme) pink pigeon (*Nesoenas mayeri*) population for transfer to Mauritius

Shopland, S., Barrows, M. – Awarded funds in 2018

The Mauritian pink pigeon is one of the most endangered birds in the world, with less than 400 individuals remaining. Despite an intensive recovery program by the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, the current wild population is still at risk of extinction due to inbreeding depression. A European captive population was established in 1977, and ongoing research shows novel genetic variation in this captive population that is absent from the wild populations. Transfer of these individuals carrying genes not represented in the wild population, from the captive population to

Mauritius, is planned. But the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroduction and Other Conservation Translocations highlights a need for a disease risk assessment prior to animal transfer, both to maximize the health of translocated animals and to minimize the risk of introducing new diseases to the destination population.

The aim of this study was to reduce the risk of disease being transferred from the EEP captive pink pigeons to the wild population in Mauritius. In order to do this, 3 objectives were fulfilled; firstly, to identify diseases which may pose a threat to the wild population, secondly to perform a disease risk assessment, and thirdly to create a quarantine protocol to reduce the risk of disease introduction.

This project performed the risk assessment and created a quarantine protocol to ensure that the birds we are sending back to the wild are fit and well, and that they pose the lowest risk of disease possible to the wild population. This research highlights the important role zoos play in species conservation, and hopefully can be used in the future to provide an example of the successful integration of a captive population back into the wild.



Pink pigeon squab with it's foster mum. Photo credit S. Shopland

News on Charity

The Wild Animal Health Fund is accredited by [BBB Give.org Alliance](#) by meeting the 20 BBB Charity Standards. In addition, the Wild Animal Health Fund has obtained the Gold Seal from [GuideStar/Candid](#) for demonstrating a commitment to transparency.



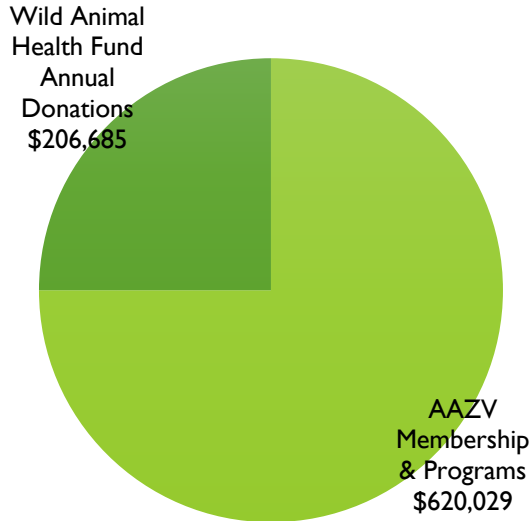
FROM THE RESEARCHERS:

“We look forward to starting this collaborative research project and the grant from the Wild Animal Health Fund will be a huge help in our research on dolphin morbillivirus pathogenesis.”
K. Colegrove DVM, PhD, Dip ACVP

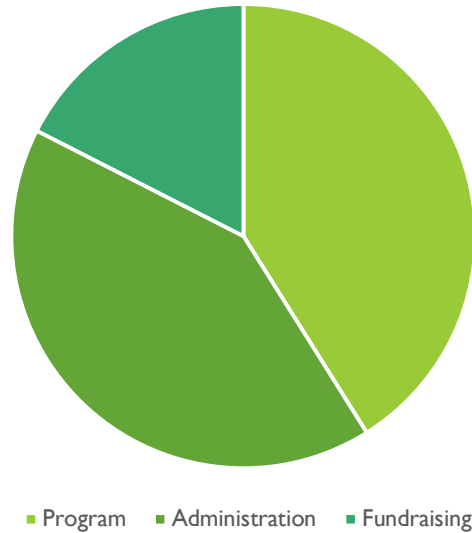
“We are grateful for the funding that has resulted in these important contributions to wildlife health. Just to let you know, that because of this work, there are now a number of reserves in South Africa that are using our tests to determine whether bovine TB is present on their properties. So the research truly do have practical applications.” M. Miller, DVM, MS, PhD, Dipl. ECZM

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

2018 – 2019 Revenues



2018 – 2019 Expenses

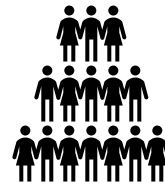


*** Note: All fundraising expenses are covered by AAZV reserves. All annual donations to the Wild Animal Health Fund go 100% toward research projects.**

Making Progress:



292
New Donors
in 2019



2410
Annual
Donors

The progress of the Wild Animal Health Fund is constantly being measured by the growth of the donor base and the research outcomes having impact on the health of the particular species.

Until we eliminate animal extinction, we have a lot to accomplish. Extinction doesn't always exist because of the lack of conservation efforts. Some animals go extinct because of health reasons and until we have the research to uncover the many unknowns of each biological species, we need professionals to seek answers.

We will continue to strive for the Wild Animal Health Fund to become self-sustaining in funding approved projects and operational expenses. We are sure to be on our way in solving the health problems for the world's zoo animals and wildlife.



Social Media Impact:

Facebook Followers: 408
 Facebook Fundraisers: 15 Events
 \$5,643 Total Raised

Want More Info?

Wild Animal Health Fund
 c/o AAZV
 581705 White Oak Rd
 Yulee, FL 32097
 (904) 225-3275

Other Ways to Support the Animals:

Amazon Smile: You can do all your holiday shopping through Amazon Smile. Log on and choose American Association of Zoo Veterinarians as your charity and start shopping.

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/59-6146888>

Note: It won't work at Amazon.com or the Amazon app.

Facebook Fundraiser: On the left side of your Facebook page under "Explore" you will see "Fundraisers." Search charity for the **Wild Animal Health Fund** and start your easy campaign.

Like Us at:

<https://www.facebook.com/WildAnimalHealthFund/>

With your help, zoo animals and wildlife will live healthier lives:

- New discoveries will come from the approved studies
- Better diagnostic techniques will be developed to cure diseases
- Increased conservation efforts will help sustain populations
- Understanding the changing environmental influences will improve species health
- We can address health conditions that are negatively impacting endangered species.

**Thank you for helping us
 advance wild animal
 health!**