

Wild Animal Health Fund Annual Report

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020



Your Support Really Matters

With the help of generous supporters, the Wild Animal Health Fund enables veterinarians to make vital breakthroughs in zoological medicine and find answers to help zoo animals and wildlife globally.





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Dear Friends,

COVID-19 is a threat to every human on the planet. Until an effective vaccine protects against it, it will dominate the way we do things in every corner of the world.

For that reason, governments and pharmaceutical companies are spending billions of dollars in research to discover the most accurate diagnostic techniques, the most effective treatments, and ultimately a vaccine. In the U.S. alone, at the time of this writing, the federal government has spent more than \$7.1 billion on COVID-19. World-wide, the number is much higher.

It makes sense. This pandemic might kill some of us or make us very sick and leave us disabled. We can't put a dollar value on a human life, and for that reason, we'll spend whatever it takes to try to control the pandemic.

But when there is a pandemic among our zoo animals and wildlife, where do we get the necessary funds to do the research? For more than 25 years we've been fighting a disease called elephant herpes that kills younger elephants, both in zoos and in the wild, with very little warning. We have no effective treatment for it. We have no vaccine for it. The research that is done on elephant herpes is primarily funded by members of the public who have a passion for wildlife and the ability to donate. The total amount we have spent trying to eradicate this disease is a tiny fraction of what we spend for human health issues, and it's not supported by any governments.

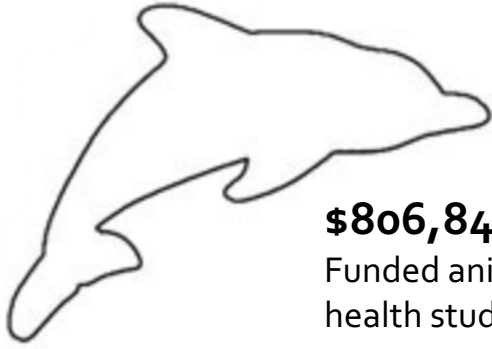
I can give you other examples, but you probably get the picture. When human health is the concern, governments and many members of the public graciously open their wallets and donate. But if a disease just affects zoo animals or wildlife, it's difficult to find the funding to do the research necessary to control or eliminate the disease.

It is for this reason that the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians established the Wild Animal Health Fund 6 years ago. Veterinarians working with exotic animals deal with diseases and health conditions threatening the health and well-being of our zoo animals and wildlife every day. They recognize the need for the research, and they are best suited to evaluate research grants and make funding recommendations that ensure our donor's dollars are used in the most efficient way.

If money was not an issue, we probably would have eradicated elephant herpes years ago. The same goes for so many of the diseases and medical conditions we see in zoo animals and wildlife. That's why we're counting on you, our donors, to help spread the word and educate your friends and families about the needs, and to continue your generous support of the Wild Animal Health Fund.

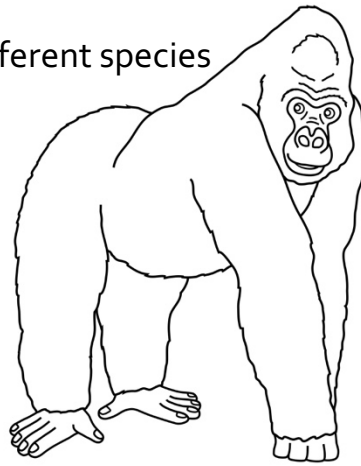


Respectfully,
Robert Hilsenroth, DVM

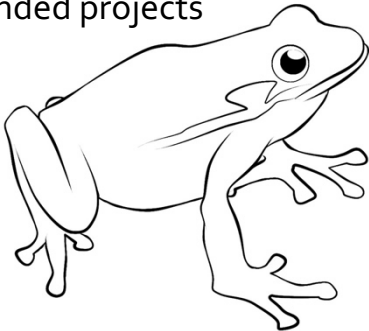


\$806,846
Funded animal
health studies

61 different species

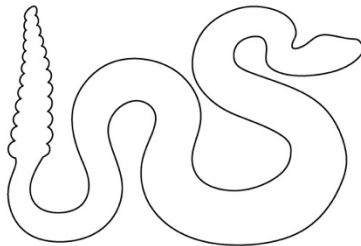


90 funded projects

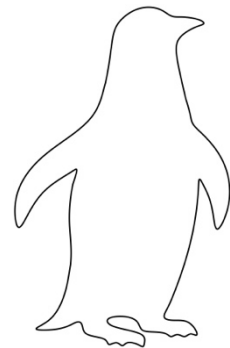


\$160,000
Budget for approved
studies in 2021

411 grant
applications
received

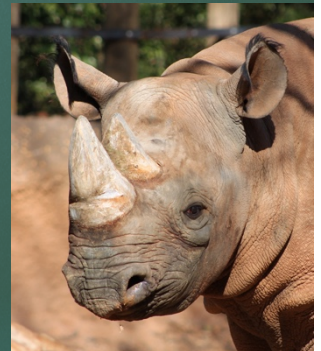


321 grant
applications
left on the
table



New TB Culturing Method in Rhinos

This study was completed in 2020 by using two novel methods for detecting the bacterium that causes TB in rhinoceroses. The GeneXpert MTB/RIF Ultra qPCR and the mycobacterial culturing technique called the TiKa-MGIT system improved the rapid detection of bacteria in African rhinoceros' respiratory samples. These techniques will improve the ability to screen and diagnose TB in rhinoceros in zoos and in the wild.



Cardiac disease in Marine Mammals

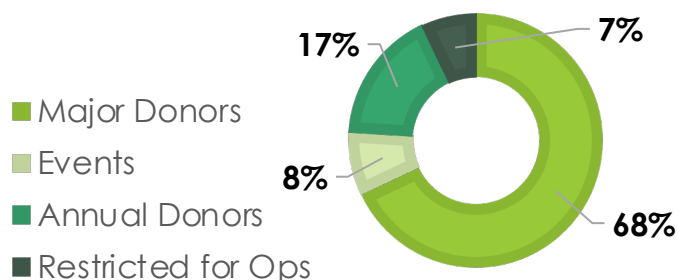
This study, completed in 2020, successfully validated and established preliminary ranges of assays to help clinicians working with managed care and free-ranging marine mammals when assessing health status or attempting antemortem diagnosis of heart disease. These results allow for more informed decisions regarding early intervention and treatment in suspect cardiac cases, improving health and quality of life.



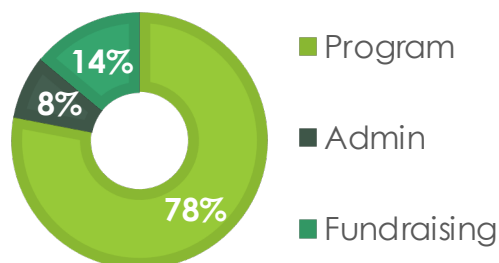
Financial Highlights:

- The Wild Animal Health Fund is a program of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV).
- Uniquely, all fundraising expenses are covered by **AAZV** reserves and **not** incoming donations.
- All annual donations to the **Wild Animal Health Fund** go **100%** toward research projects.

Revenues:



Expenses:



Financial Efficiency Performance Metrics*	Criteria	Total Point	Wild Animal Health Fund Earned Pts
Program Expense	70% or higher	25	25
Independent Audit	Yes	25	25
Board Composition	Yes	25	25
Liabilities to Assets	50% or less	15	15
Website with Transparency	Yes	10	10

*Charity Navigator Emcompass Rating System

Gratefulness from the researchers:

We are extremely grateful to the Wildlife Health Fund for making this great project possible. In addition to advancing knowledge in wild animal welfare science, this project was a great way to launch Yasmeen's career in zoological medicine. Thank you and your team once again for all the work enabling these grants to exist!

Dr. Marion Desmarchelier,
DVM, Diipl ACZM, Dipl EZCM,
Université de Montréal



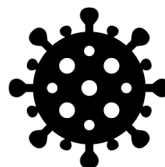
I am honestly very humbled by the opportunity and very grateful for all you do for the zoo animals and wildlife. This study would have never been possible without this grant and it has taught me so much.

Carol Ewbank, DVM. MSc,
PhD, University of São Paulo



Facts on Zoological Medicine Research:

- The federal government's highest research priority is for the life sciences. The next priority is engineering and ends with "other sciences necessary" as the catch-all bottom category.
- Over the last 40 years, federal funding has been stagnant or declining. Funding research for zoo animals and wildlife has been almost nonexistent.
- Research programs at most zoos and wildlife institutions are designed to address specific problems in their collections.
- Conducting research in animal health and veterinary science depends heavily on veterinary staffing levels because most staff can participate in research only on a part-time basis.
- The CDC relies heavily on veterinary scientists to assist in research toward public-health.
- There are more than 300 zoonotic diseases and new emerging diseases that threaten animal and human health.



Support the Wild Animal Health Fund



Visit the
WildAnimalHealthFund.org
to donate. You can
donate one time or set up
a recurring gift. Donations
can also be made in honor
or memory of a loved one
or pet.



If you are shopping on Amazon,
part of the proceeds of that sale
could be given to the Wild
Animal Health Fund. Using your
Amazon account at
SMILE.Amazon.com gives you the
option of supporting your favorite
participating charity. Find us
listed as American Association of
Zoo Veterinarians.



Let your family,
friends and followers
know that you
support the Wild
Animal Health Fund.
Like us on Facebook
to keep up with us
and to help share
our mission of giving
a better life to zoo
animals and wildlife.

Thank you!

We are grateful to
everyone who supported
the **Wild Animal Health Fund**
this year. As you can see,
your gifts make a difference.

Although we have been
able to fund these projects,
there are so many other
species with medical issues
that we need to solve.

We hope one day we will be
able to fund every qualified
grant application. This will
only be possible with
thoughtful contributions from
people like you.



To find out more, contact:

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