



## **Annual Report 2021-2022**

TEN **10** YEARS

***Animal health is the  
missing piece in the  
puzzle of conservation***

# LETTER FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I'm delighted to share the recent highlights of the Wild Animal Health Fund (WAHF) with you. The last few years have presented many challenges to our daily lives and our professions. This impact has been felt heavily in the zoo and wildlife community.

In the midst of these challenges and this uncertainty, we have seen a great deal of hope for a better tomorrow. This past year the WAHF had a record number of applications. Thanks to our dedicated supporters and the passionate effort of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) staff, we were able to increase the funding budget and approve the highest number of projects we've ever approved.

Over the past decade, a greater focus has been placed on One Health, or, essentially recognizing the connection between the health of humans, the health of all other living beings, and the health of our planet. Advances in the understanding of animal populations living in zoos can be applied to wild animals, and vice-versa. Zoological and wildlife medicine contribute substantially the science of One Health and play key roles in preserving ecosystems and the biodiversity of our planet.

By supporting the Wild Animal Health Fund, your donation funds grants that help zoo and wildlife veterinarians discover and develop better diagnostic techniques, cure diseases, prevent illness and infection, and help slow down extinction rates. Your support helps maximize the well-being of many individual animals and populations.

I'm proud of the Wild Animal Health Fund, an industry-leading resource for zoological and wildlife medicine. On behalf of the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians, I wholeheartedly thank you for your continued support of this vital program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle R. Davis".

**Michelle R. Davis, DVM, Dipl. ACZM & ECZM (ZHM)  
Board Certified Specialist in Zoological Medicine™  
Immediate Past President, AAZV**



## **STAFF**



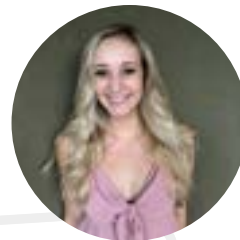
**Robert Hilsenroth, DVM**  
**Executive Director**



**Adine Nicholson**  
**Director of Development & Operations**



**Julie Best**  
**Administrative Assistant**



**Caroline Yaun**  
**Development Associate**

### **Our cover story**

#### **A Wild Animal Health Fund Project: Impacts of environmental toxins on NW Atlantic gray seals**

Disease outbreaks among coastal species have been associated with a general decline in the health of coastal marine ecosystems. Toxins in coastal waters can increase the spread of disease and impact immune systems in these species. This 2022 WAHF study is focusing on establishing information on the relationship between these toxins and gray seals. Previously, there was little to no information on this health concern before.



# EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Term Nov, 1, 2021–Oct. 31 2022



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**President**



**Dr. Allison Tuttle**  
**President Elect**



**Dr. Sharon Deem**  
**Vice President**



**Dr. Samuel Rivera**  
**Secretary**



**Dr. Jess Siegal-Willott**  
**Past-President**



**Dr. John Sykes**  
**Treasurer**



**Dr. Deena Brenner**  
**Member at Large**



**Dr. Doug Whiteside**  
**Member at Large**

## Can Cystic Fibrosis medicine cure orangutans?

In 2018, researchers & veterinarians working on the Orangutan Species Survival Plan were stumped by a chronic health condition in bornean orangutans: respiratory disease. Turning to the Wild Animal Health Fund, several researchers requested funds for a groundbreaking research project. These researchers noticed that the disease was similar to cystic fibrosis in humans, so they hypothesized that those medications could work for the apes too.

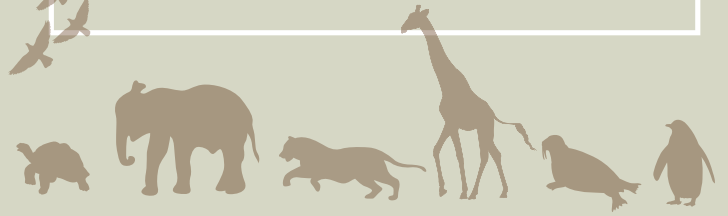
They were right. Nine test subjects underwent pre-treatment medical tests including CT scans, treatments of CF medications, and post-treatment CT's 6-12 months after treatment. 100% of the apes in this study showed improvement in their respiratory and systemic health. Sinus disease improved or resolved and airway disease and pneumonia improved or resolved.

This study sets a new precedent for orangutans and those that care for them. The CT images captured will be used for years to come and establish a baseline of health knowledge not known before.

Every year, the Wild Animal Health Fund grants funds for critical studies like this. It's just the tip of the iceberg, and so much more health knowledge is needed. Their health is truly the missing piece, and the veterinarians are putting the conservation puzzle together.



## THIS YEAR'S NUMBERS



18

### CRITICAL HEALTH STUDIES FUNDED

\$206k

RAISED FOR RESEARCH

25%

INCREASE IN PROJECT BUDGET FROM LAST FISCAL YEAR

239 NEW DONORS



ENDANGERED SPECIES FUNDED THIS YEAR

7

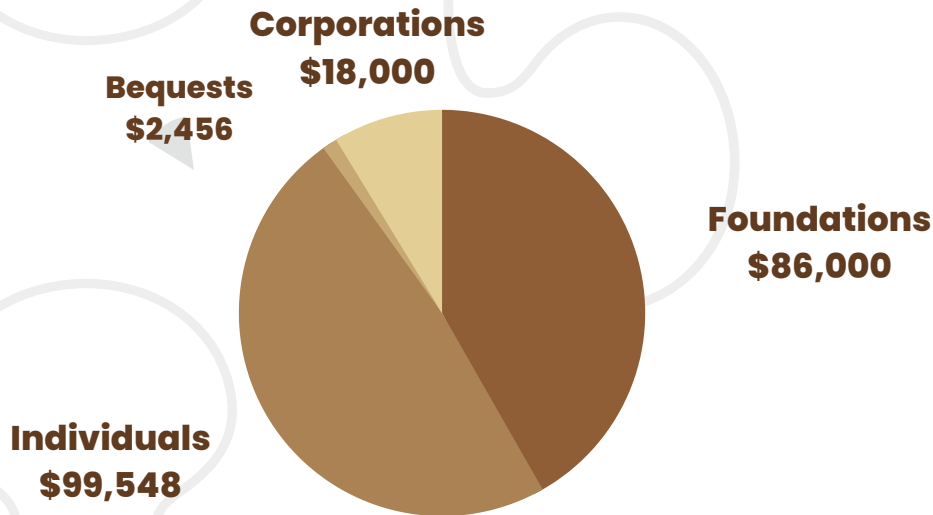
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33 PROJECTS LEFT ON THE TABLE

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2022

## Contributions by donor type

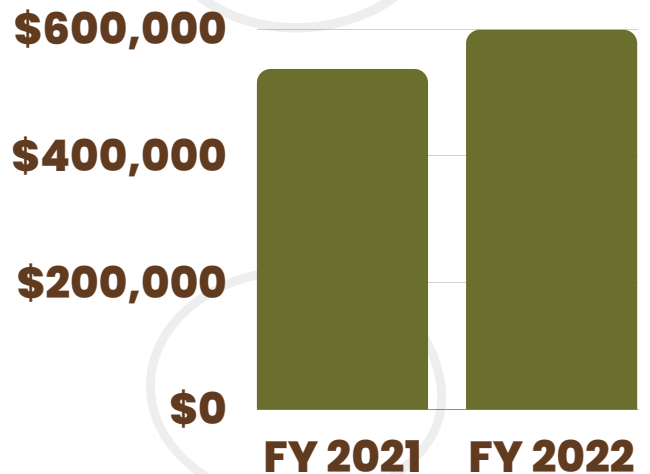


## Program Efficiency

General & Admin*	0%	\$0
Fundraising*	0%	\$0
Program	100%	\$189,028

## Net Assets

Restricted for research



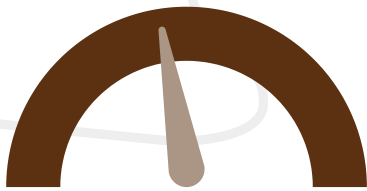
*\*Please note that all operating expenses are covered by AAZV. Therefore, no amount from annual donations goes toward general administrations or fundraising expenses. Please contact us to review the FY22 AAZV Audit & 990.*

# 10 YEARS OF GROWTH

**121 Animal Health Studies in  
over 20 countries**

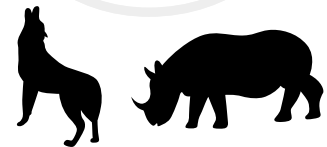


**80% of projects resulting  
in presentations to peers**

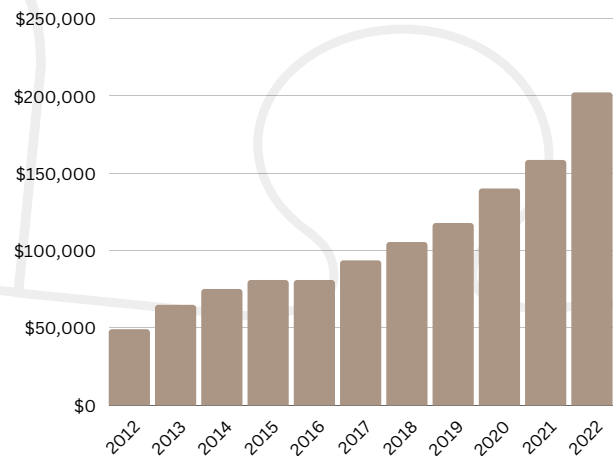


**45% of projects changed  
governmental policies, legal  
policies, or resulted in local  
community involvement**

**Over 72 different species of zoo  
animals & wildlife**



**Over \$1 million in  
health studies funded**



*Celebrating*  
— 10 YEARS —

# 2022 PAVES THE WAY FOR MARINE ANIMALS



**"This is the best grant ever, what a difference it has made to zoo vets. It has really been a game-changer for us and all of our animals!"**

**Dr. Ellen Bronson**

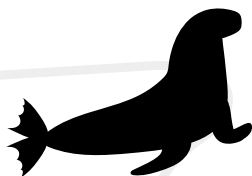
**Diagnosing deadly fungus in gentoo penguins**

**Environmental contaminants impacting the NW Atlantic grey seals**



**Fatal infections in California sea otters**

**Understanding immune responses of African penguins during an active infection**



**Health monitoring programs for sea lions and fur seals**



# THE FOWLER SOCIETY

Named in honor Dr. Murray Fowler, the Fowler Society is the planned giving program for the WAHF.

A planned gift is support with a long lasting impact.

For questions or to inform the WAHF of a planned gift, visit us at [WildAnimalHealthFund.org](http://WildAnimalHealthFund.org) or email [admin@wildanimalhealthfund.org](mailto:admin@wildanimalhealthfund.org)

**Thank you to our corporate sponsors!**



*Let's get social*

@WildAnimalHealthFund



Platinum  
Transparency  
2022

Candid.