



Annual Report 2022–2023

and Financial Overview of the
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians



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



A LETTER FROM ALLISON

In a time of increasing concern for the environment across the globe, and amid the sixth mass extinction, the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV) Wild Animal Health Fund (WAHF) is more important now than ever before!

Wild animals face increasing challenges such as habitat destruction, overexploitation, environmental pollution, novel or emerging diseases, and climate change. And, while their animal ambassador counterparts living in zoos and aquariums are protected from many of these threats, they are the ark in case wild conservation fails. To this end, maintaining these animals in the healthiest condition possible is not only the right thing to do, but also an essential piece of the conservation puzzle.

The WAHF supports cutting-edge conservation and animal health-relevant research that promotes wild animal health and prevents extinction. The AAZV veterinarians that perform this research are the world's leading experts in their subject areas and contribute greatly to the advancement of veterinary medicine for nondomestic species through their work. It is through their passion, commitment, and expertise that our knowledge base and influence increases as we work to advance our profession and enhance wild animal health, welfare, and conservation.

This annual report outlines many of the aspects of the Wild Animal Health Fund program, such as the grant application statistics, grant funding history and financials, and the newly funded WAHF grants. It is noteworthy that WAHF continues to grow in the number of applications received, the number of projects recommended for funding, and the amount of research funded!

We are so proud of the collective impact of the work enabled by the WAHF, and grateful for the support of so many who have made it possible. Please join us in envisioning a world where animals thrive and professionals are empowered to make a difference.

Help us support this important research!

Sincerely,

Allison Tuttle, DVM, Dipl. ACZM
President, AAZV
2022-2023 term

2022-2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



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Mystic Aquarium



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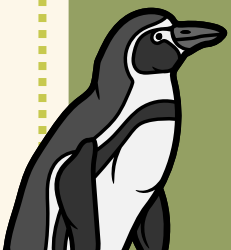
Julie Best
Administrative Assistant



Sydney Kirk
PR and Fundraising Associate

A 2023 Project: The Health and Pathogen Status of Humboldt Penguins in Peru

Humboldt penguins are at an increased risk of disease in Peru. This is largely due to influenza in migratory birds and human-livestock interference. Currently, there is not enough known about this species health to quantify the real threat that disease poses. This study aims to fill in the knowledge gaps in penguin health by identifying disease threats.



OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

16

Critical health
studies funded

\$249,887

IN GRANT FUNDING

species
studied

30+

303

NEW DONORS



What do we know about anesthetics in African Wildlife?

In 2021, we began funding an animal health study to determine baseline information on the physiological effects of anesthetics on African wildlife. This was because of conservation concerns for collaring, translocating, and veterinary treatment.

Like humans, sedatives help reduce sensitivity in the body. This is the same case for animals, but they all metabolize medicines differently. Low and high dosages can affect respiratory and cardiovascular functions.

This study was recently completed and published. Veterinarians now have an outline on dosage use. These solutions are implementable and will greatly improve the welfare of thousands of animals immobilized in Africa and beyond.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

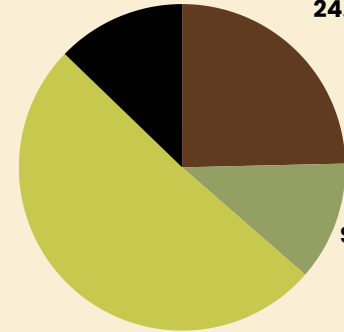
Revenue

\$1,330,695

- **AAZV Programs & Services** \$676,076
- **Member Dues** \$327,787
- **WAHF Donations** \$170,007
- **Sponsorships** \$156,825

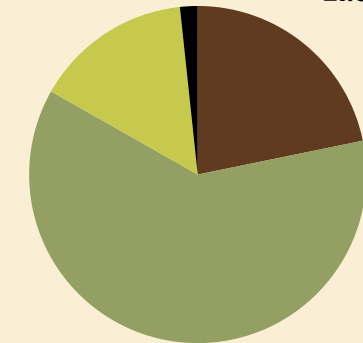
WAHF Donations
12.8%

Member Dues
24.6%



AAZV Programs & Services
50.8%

WAHF Research Grants 15.1% Salaries & Benefits 21.8%



AAZV Member Programs
61.4%

Expenses

\$1,344,034

- **AAZV Member Programs** \$825,571
- **Salaries and Benefits** \$292,726
- **WAHF Research Grants** \$203,030
- **Depreciation** \$22,707



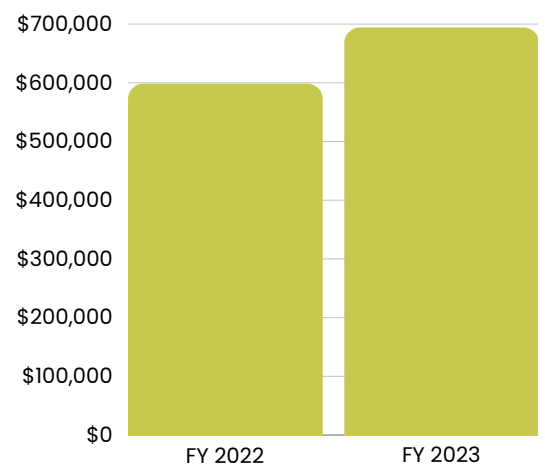
The Wild Animal Health Fund
is a program of the
American Association of Zoo
Veterinarians (AAZV).



All operating expenses are
covered by the AAZV.

NET ASSETS

Restricted for research



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



1

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 these answers.

2

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

2023 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



A focus on One Health

Our study in Madagascar will look at the bigger picture to determine pathogen burdens for all species in a biodiversity hotspot.

Aquatic species

Marine and aquatic animals are just as important as their land-dwelling counterparts! This year, there is a focus on sharks, rays, penguins, and even watersnakes!

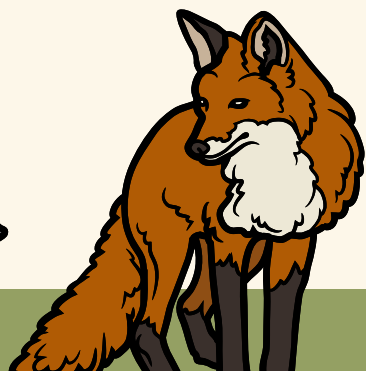
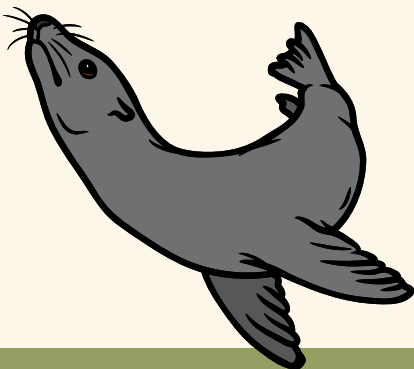


Pinniped Projects

Two studies center around seals, also called pinnipeds. These projects will characterize alopecia (hair loss) in elephant seals and the health status of sea lions respectively.

North American Carnivores

There are serious disease threats to carnivores. Insight on these diseases is beneficial to animals around the world.



The Fowler Society

Named in honor of Dr. Murray Fowler, the Fowler Society is the planned giving program for the Wild Animal Health Fund.

Planned giving is one way you and your family can ensure your love of wildlife and zoo animals will thrive for generations.

For questions or to inform the Wild Animal Health Fund of a planned gift, visit www.WildAnimalHealthFund.org or contact admin@wildanimalhealthfund.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



"A world where every one of us accepts responsibility for taking care of our natural world—that is my vision"

Dr. Jane Goodall