



Morris Animal
FOUNDATION

WILDLIFE REPORT 2015

For more than 40 years, Morris Animal Foundation has provided financial support to address health concerns for thousands of distinct and biologically diverse species. Monitoring and maintaining global wildlife health is an essential component of conservation efforts but often overlooked by funding agencies. For some researchers, the foundation is their only major non-governmental source of funding to investigate and develop solutions that target disease outbreaks and other wildlife health challenges.

In the last year, Morris Animal Foundation helped researchers around the world:



safeguard vulnerable and endangered species from emerging diseases

Tuberculosis is a highly infectious bacterial disease and emerging health concern for Asian and African elephants. Our researchers developed a rapid, new screening test that provides quicker and accurate TB diagnosis in elephants so isolation practices or antibiotic therapy can be initiated sooner. Early screening and treatment reduces the risk of TB spreading to other elephants as well as other species, including humans.

evaluate the safety and effectiveness of drugs to improve the lives of animals

Our researchers documented the efficacy of a long-acting antibiotic in red-tailed hawks, substantially reducing handling stress and improving health outcomes for birds during rehabilitation. Since drug metabolism can vary greatly between species, this research laid the groundwork for additional evaluation of this long-acting antibiotic in other raptors, including eagles and great horned owls.



respond to wildlife health emergencies

We provided emergency funding that helped researchers identify malnutrition as the cause for record strandings of California sea lion pups. This knowledge allowed veterinarians to develop targeted treatment and supportive care plans that increase the likelihood malnourished pups will survive while in rehabilitation, and successfully return to the wild.

OUR INVESTMENT IN WILDLIFE

Morris Animal Foundation supports animal health experts around the world. In 2015, our funding is helping researchers:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of pain-relief drugs in **elephants, lions, cheetahs** and **tigers**
- Tackle emerging disease threats to endangered **San Joaquin kit foxes, Javan rhinos** and **Andean wild cats**
- Investigate declining herds of **caribou** and **muskoxen** in the Arctic
- Develop a genetic management toolkit to save endangered **African wild dogs**
- Study cross-species transmission and spread of a deadly marine virus in **whales, dolphins** and **porpoises**
- Develop new diagnostic tools for early detection of health concerns in **elephants**
- Study an infectious hemorrhagic disease that is highly fatal to **elephant calves**
- Evaluate the effects of lead poisoning on **bald eagle** cardiac health
- Study invertebrate reproduction to help preserve endangered **coral reef species**
- Find solutions to combat parasitic infestation in critically endangered **Ridgway's hawks**
- Manage bovine tuberculosis in wild **African buffalo**
- Explore probiotics to curb bovine tuberculosis transmission from **badgers** to cattle in the United Kingdom



ABOUT MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION:

Morris Animal Foundation is a nonprofit organization that invests in science to advance animal health. The foundation is a global leader in funding scientific studies for companion animals, horses and wildlife. Learn more at www.morrisanimalfoundation.org.

Contact us at 720 S. Colorado Blvd., Suite 174A, Denver, CO 80246, or by calling 800.243.2345.

BY THE NUMBERS

FUNDING

SINCE 1972:

\$22.9 million invested

560 wildlife studies funded

144 institutions supported

SPECIES

WILDLIFE STUDIES FUNDED:

323 land mammals

88 birds

87 amphibian-reptile-fish

48 aquatic mammals

9 invertebrates

5 multi-species

HEALTH

64 CURRENTLY FUNDED STUDIES IN:

1 behavior

2 cancer

4 endocrine-metabolic

5 general health

2 genetics

3 immunology

35 infectious disease

3 pharmacology-drugs

1 physiology-anesthesia

5 reproduction

1 respiratory

2 toxicology