



VETERINARY INITIATIVE FOR
ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

Featuring photographs by Daniel J. Cox



VIEW is the only conservation organization focused solely on the urgent need to address health threats facing endangered wildlife in their native habitat with proven veterinary practices.

VISION

We envision a world where all countries have a commitment and the local capacity to support wildlife health as a cornerstone of conservation.

MISSION

Our mission is to protect endangered wildlife by tackling the health threats they face in their native habitat, using proven scientific veterinary practices and protocols.



Daniel J. Cox



Daniel J. Cox

OUR STORY

**Told by Dr. Deborah McCauley,
Founder and Executive Director**

A few years ago, while working for Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, I received a call about a bighorn sheep die-off near Yellowstone. As our team drove to the remote pastures where the sheep herd grazed, we saw an emaciated ram with labored breath and stumbling in the dirt ahead. We got out of the truck to witness this wild sheep tumble over and gasp his last breath. I looked up to the pasture and saw that the landscape was dotted with dead and dying wild sheep. We discovered that 90% of this bighorn sheep herd died of pneumonia, a disease that was transmitted from a healthy domestic sheep that were carriers. This scene is not just happening in Montana, but also to other fragile endangered wildlife populations around the globe.

A HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

When European settlers came to America, they brought with them many diseases, including smallpox. Native Americans had no resistance to these foreign diseases and it is estimated that 95% of their population was wiped out from these European viruses.

Not only does disease pass from human-to-human, but it can also be transmitted among humans, domestic animals, livestock, and wildlife. Current statistics indicate that 60% of diseases are shared between humans and animals, and more alarming, our pets and agricultural animals pass diseases to wildlife too!



Despite millions of dollars and years spent toward conservation efforts to save the endangered Saiga antelope, 210,000 died within two weeks leaving conservation corridors empty.

S. Zuther



Daniel J. Cox

THERE IS A MISSING PIECE TO CONSERVATION

WILDLIFE HEALTH

Despite major conservation efforts and millions of dollars spent to reduce poaching, habitat encroachment and address climate change, our endangered wildlife is still struggling to survive.

To solve this urgent problem, we need to expand our thinking and view it from a different perspective. The population of both humans and domestic animals has exploded over the past 40 years. This increased presence shrinks critical habitats and forces living in closer proximity to wildlife - allowing diseases to be more easily transmitted between species.

While there are some conservation groups addressing health, their approach is largely focused on protecting humans and agricultural animals from diseases transmitted from wildlife. Little is being done to investigate the reverse - how wildlife is impacted by humans, domestic animals, and livestock disease. It is time to bring veterinary medicine into the field of conservation and help endangered populations remain healthy before more die-offs occur and extinction trends become irreversible.

VIEW's Wildlife Health Programming is comprehensive, not specific to one iconic species, area, or disease. We work with local partners, both in the United States and internationally, to develop sustainable wildlife health programs and empower the people that work directly with critical species.

OUR WORK IS UNIQUE

SUSTAINABILITY, EVIDENCE-BASED, LOCAL COLLABORATION

TRAINING



Education and hands-on direct training are critical to empowering local wildlife professionals to better understand and respond to health risks facing endangered wildlife populations. VIEW's team of specialized wildlife veterinarians partners with local veterinarians, technicians, students, organizations and governments and provides the knowledge, skills and resources to best serve their important wildlife populations. VIEW accomplishes this by conducting workshops and training for local partners in disease surveillance and safe capture and immobilization.

INFRASTRUCTURE



Training is not enough. It is vital to have the proper tools and equipment. Just as a doctor needs a hospital, staff and equipment to best treat patients, VIEW is instrumental in providing important tools for wildlife health professionals. This includes lab equipment, necropsy field kits, ultrasounds, refrigerators, generators and a host of other essential equipment.

VIEW has developed Wildlife Health Information System (WHIS), the first electronic health records platform tailored for endangered wildlife and field professionals. This database allows in-the-field wildlife professionals to collect, analyze and report data on wildlife health trends. There is no other resource of this kind in the world today.

RESEARCH



VIEW's training and infrastructure provide the foundation for research that not only helps one animal but impacts an entire species. Our novel discoveries help the recovery of endangered wildlife populations and act as a lesson for other global conservation efforts.



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PROOF OF CONCEPT

VIEW began its programming in 2012 in Nepal’s Chitwan National Park where we collaborated with the National Trust for Nature Conservation, the premier non-governmental wildlife conservation organization in Nepal, and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation. Nepal was a perfect country for VIEW to begin its work because it is rich in wildlife biodiversity that is now threatened by the close association between human development and wildlife in ever-shrinking habitats. Highlights of our work and impact follow:

TRAINING



VIEW worked with its partners and trained over 200 wildlife veterinarians, technicians and park staff in multiple aspects of wildlife health, including safe wildlife capture, disease surveillance and clinical medicine. Thus, empowering local professionals to address wildlife health threats and pass their training along to others.

INFRASTRUCTURE



VIEW provided veterinary expertise, a local veterinary salary and upgraded current facilities and equipment. We built a field laboratory, necropsy area and helped our partners build the first wildlife health hospital. Because of VIEW’s work, wildlife health is now a national priority.

RESEARCH



VIEW made some significant discoveries. One highlight includes the first wild rhino diagnosed with tuberculosis, a disease shared with all species. Another is the presence of the canine distemper in local dogs that is highly lethal to tigers. VIEW veterinarians treated a variety of critical species including tigers, rhinos, and elephants and saved the first Asian Elephant from the deadly herpes virus. These discoveries and treatments are now used as templates to help other endangered species.

ONE RHINO DIES EVERY EIGHT DAYS IN NEPAL

VIEW reported that 62 rhinos died in the past three years, with 60 deaths due to unknown or natural causes and only two due to poaching.

VIEW conducted a review of rhino mortalities in Chitwan National Park from 2004-2017 and found the largest mortality event of rhinos ever recorded that was not due to poaching. While the cause of death by poaching has decreased substantially since 2010, the number of unknown or “natural” causes of death has increased dramatically. Our report has sparked international attention and an investigation.



Daniel J. Cox

VETERINARY TEAM

DR. DEBORAH MCCAULEY Executive Director

Dr. McCauley is a wildlife veterinarian who has worked with wildlife organizations including the Wildlife Conservation Society, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, and ZooMontana. Dr. McCauley graduated from Royal Veterinary College and has won numerous global leadership awards including the 2017 Ashoka Fellowship and the Emily Couric Women’s Leadership Award in 2019.

DR. GRETCHEN E. KAUFMAN Associate Director

Dr. Kaufman is a wildlife veterinarian. She worked in academia for nearly three decades and was former Director of the Tufts Center for Conservation Medicine at Tufts University.

DR. VIRGINIA STOUT Wildlife Veterinarian

Dr. Stout is a veterinarian with experience in wildlife capture, field surgery, research and disease surveillance. She graduated from Auburn University Veterinary School and has a Masters of Conservation Medicine from Tufts University.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

DR. COLIN GILLIN

Head State Wildlife Veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

DR. RAINA PLOWRIGHT

Infectious disease ecologist, epidemiologist and wildlife veterinarian. She is an Associate Professor at Montana State University.

DR. TIERRA SMILEY EVANS

Wildlife veterinarian, epidemiologist and Fulbright scholar.

DR. MARK DREW

Former Idaho Fish and Game State Wildlife Veterinarian for over 20 years.

DR. DEBORAH MCCAULEY

DR. GRETCHEN E. KAUFMAN

DR. VIRGINIA STOUT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DENNIS KELLER

Retired Chairman and CEO of DeVry Education Group and Princeton and Chicago School of Business graduate.

HEIDI SONEN

Meteorologist, data scientist and Penn State University graduate who co-founded Global Market Math.

KATHERINE GRASS

Former Head of Innovation and Ventures for Amadeus IT Group and Edinburgh University graduate.

DR. DEBORAH MCCAULEY DR. GRETCHEN E. KAUFMAN

ADVANCEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

KAT IMHOFF

Senior Conservation Fellow for Piedmont Environmental Council in Virginia and former State Director for The Nature Conservancy in Montana.

MARSHALL FIELD

Fifth generation of a Chicago family whose activities have included merchandising, real estate, publishing, communications and civic affairs. Field has a strong interest in conservation.

ADV. ADVISORY COUNCIL (cont)

NATALIE ORFALEA

Deeply involved in philanthropy for over 30 years, providing vision, inspiration, and strategy behind her family foundations’ initiatives. Her focus is on global and community health, environmental conservation and education, leadership development, social justice, and documentary films.

KAREN KRESS

Former president of the Yellowstone Park Foundation, has over 40 years of experience in nonprofit management and resource development.

DENNIS KELLER

HEIDI SONEN

DR. DEBORAH MCCAULEY

SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

While factors, such as a warming climate or poaching are out of our immediate control, VIEW's methods and proven medical and scientific protocols will help us identify, prevent and treat diseases in our fragile wildlife populations. Assuring the health and vitality of our wildlife depends on teamwork, support and science

Your investment in VIEW's pioneering work will not only help wildlife, but will have a ripple effect to achieve optimal health for the interconnection of people, plants, and their shared environment.





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DONATE NOW

Please consider helping VIEW with a gift to support our WHIS, Himalayan, or Yellowstone projects.

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To see more of Daniel J. Cox's photography please visit www.naturalexposures.com.