

## **Wildlife Disease Association Endows Journal**

*By Joe Gaydos, Dave Jessup, and Mike Ziccardi*

After eight years of hard work, the Wildlife Disease Association has reached our endowment goal of \$3 million. In a time where science is moving towards open access, library fees for journal subscriptions are dropping, and the inequity preventing scientists and managers in developing countries from accessing information and publishing data that are important for wildlife health, endowing the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* might be one of the biggest WDA accomplishments ever.

Without ever touching the \$3 million endowment principal, the WDA will use the 4-6% annual interest from the fund to help ensure, in perpetuity, the publication of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases*. The 4-6% return from the endowment will help by offsetting some of the editorial costs, it will help us continue to provide free access to the journal for colleagues, and could help free up funds to reduce page charges for scientists in the 2/3rds of nations with lower per capita GDP – the places where conservation and health challenges are most severe but the ability to pay for access to science the most challenging.

At the 2019 WDA meeting, it was announced that the Endowment of the *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* and its world-wide distribution in lower income countries will be named in honor of David A. Jessup. Dave was the visionary that not only helped convince the WDA that this endowment was needed, but he also was the person that really kept progress on the endowment moving over the last eight years. Thank you Dave! Other important people who invested heavily include past and present WDA Endowment Committee Members (Joe Gaydos and Anne Fairbrother - current and past Chairs, Patti Bright, Bieneke Bron, Tom DeLiberto, Colin Gillin, Julie Langenberg, Jonna Mazet, Mike Miller, Torsten Morner, and Tom Yuill). We also thank the sponsoring organizations that invested (American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, International Wildlife Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Wildlife Conservation Society), as well as the 221 WDA members and one very special anonymous donor who contributed to the endowment. Please look over the honor roll below and next time you see these folks, thank them for their wisdom in making an investment in wildlife health that will last in perpetuity – the David Jessup *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* Endowment Fund.

**Thank you for investing in the  
David Jessup *Journal of Wildlife Diseases* Endowment Fund**

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