



Minnesota Zoo's 2025 Bonding Request (SF 1483)

John Frawley, Zoo Director



MINNESOTA ZOO

Agenda



- Zoo 101
- 2025 Bonding Request
- Current Animal Hospital Challenges
- Proposed Wildlife Hospital & Wellness Center
- Asset Preservation Needs

Minnesota Zoo: 101



- **State Agency Partnership** – Operates as a public-private partnership
- **Current Operating Model** – 37% state-funds, 63% earned revenue and private funds
- **5th Largest Zoo in the U.S.** - Spans 485 acres
- **24/7 Campus** – 125 structures, 6.5 miles of roads, and 4.75 miles of pathways
- **Major Attraction** – Minnesota’s top year-round gated attraction with 1.5M annual visitors
- **Access** – Serves 120,000+ Free to Explore guests yearly from all 87 counties, and provides significantly discounted admission to students (18,500+ free)
- **Education Leader** – Reaches 83,000 students annually across 1,000+ schools
- **Nation’s Largest Zoo Camp** – Leading immersive educational experiences
- **Aging Campus** – Nearly 50 years old, not the “New Zoo” anymore





Minnesota Zoo's 2025 Bonding Request (SF 1483):

New Animal Hospital Building: **\$17,675,000**

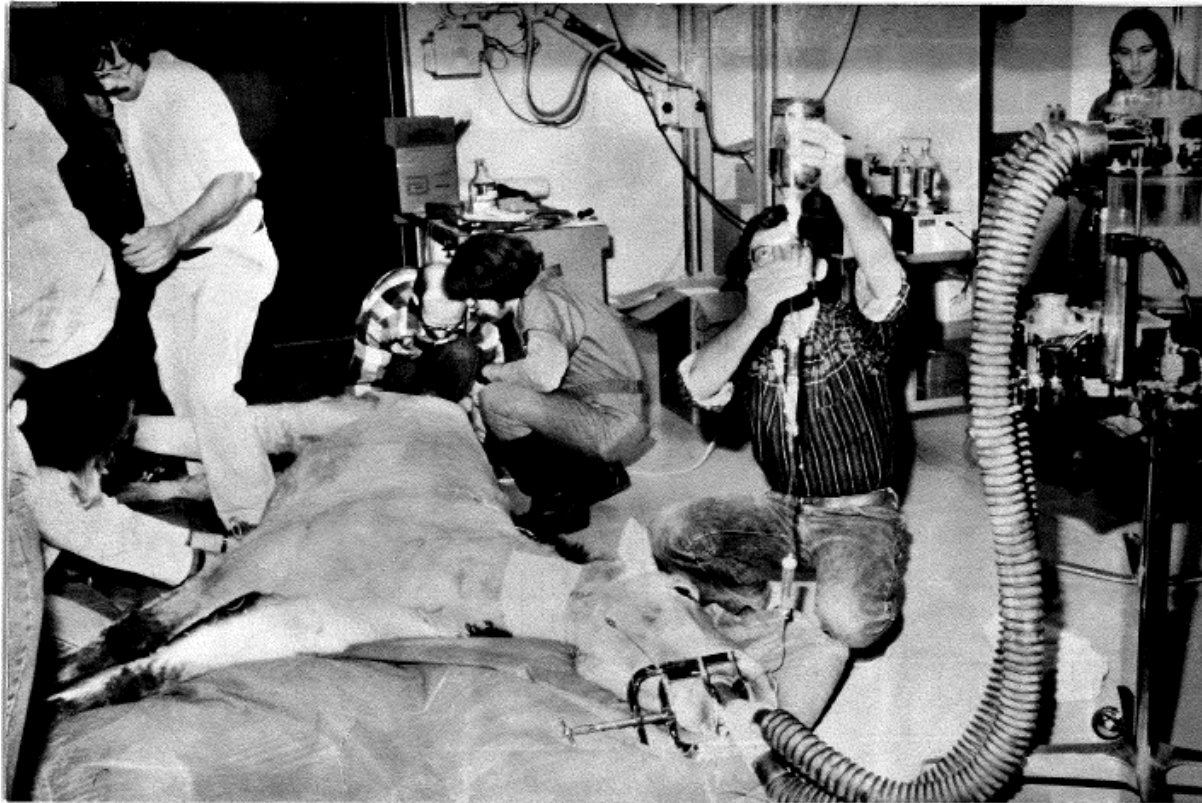
Asset Preservation: **\$3,810,000**

Total: **\$21,485,000**





Current Animal Hospital Challenges



A **mission-critical emergency project** to replace the Zoo's outdated animal hospital, originally built in 1975. The current facility lacks essential infrastructure to meet USDA and modern veterinary standards, posing risks to both animals and humans.

Current Animal Hospital Challenges



Deteriorating animal holding spaces make it impossible to properly house animals for treatment, while the outdated surgical area is too small and lacks proper ventilation, posing risks to both animals and humans.

Current Animal Hospital Challenges



Without an indoor loading dock or garage, the vet team is unable to keep their treatment vans “ambulance-ready” with the necessary equipment and medication for rapid animal care.



Proposed Wildlife Hospital & Wellness Center



MINNESOTA ZOO

Proposed Wildlife Hospital & Wellness Center



- **Animal Health** – A world-class facility designed to provide exceptional care for over 5,000 animals, including many threatened and endangered species
- **Teaching Hospital** – A state-of-the-art center for veterinary education and training, ensuring the next generation of animal care professionals
- **Human Health** – Built with well-being standards to support a safe and effective environment for veterinary staff
- **Partners** – A hospital that serves all of Minnesota, fostering partnerships with veterinarians, researchers, and educational institutions across the state



Proposed Wildlife Hospital & Wellness Center

Previous State Funding: **\$1,225,000**

Private Donations Raised: **\$9,000,000**

State Request: **\$17,675,000**

Private Fundraising Underway

Total Hospital Budget: **\$30,000,000**



MINNESOTA ZOO



MINNESOTA ZOO

Animal Health

- Safer, more ergonomic work spaces
- New CT scanner
- Larger surgical suite
- Larger animal operating table





MINNESOTA ZOO

Animal Health

- Indoor ambulance bay
- Vehicles
- Safety features for animal transporting
- Supports partner services and access
- Centrally located on Zoo grounds





MINNESOTA ZOO

Animal Health

- Safe holding areas
- Recovery spaces
- Quarantine spaces
- Treatment areas
- Monitoring technology





MINNESOTA ZOO

Teaching Hospital

- Viewing areas for the public
- School field trips





MINNESOTA ZOO

Teaching Hospital

- Veterinarian conferences & workshops
- Veterinarian student internships
- Research in preventative medicine and treatments





MINNESOTA ZOO

Human Health

The WELL Building Standard is a globally recognized framework for improving occupant well-being. It evaluates buildings based on:

- Air quality & light
- Water
- Nourishment
- Fitness
- Comfort
- Mental health



AIR



WATER



NOURISHMENT



LIGHT



MOVEMENT



THERMAL
COMFORT



SOUND



MATERIALS



MIND



COMMUNITY



MINNESOTA ZOO

Partners

A hospital that serves all of Minnesota, fostering partnerships with veterinarians, researchers, and educational institutions across the state



Great
Lakes
AQUARIUM



College of
Veterinary
Medicine



The Raptor
Center



MVMA
Minnesota Veterinary
Medical Association



International Wolf Center

The Veterinary Crisis in Minnesota

Livestock producers across Minnesota are facing a severe shortage of both large and small animal veterinarians. According to the USDA, **the shortage of rural veterinarians reached an all-time high in 2023**, with 500 counties across 46 states classified as having a critical need for large animal vets.

Rural vet shortage requires solutions

A Blue Earth, Minn., veterinarian tried to give away his practice. That didn't work, illustrating the need for state and federal remedies.

By Editorial Board Star Tribune | JULY 1, 2023 — 6:00PM

ALL SECTIONS | Star Tribune

Home Local Sports Business Opinion Variety Obituaries Classifieds

OPINION EXCHANGE

Vet crisis is statewide, national — and urgent

This affects many sectors, and the health of our animals, and ourselves, depends on resolving the shortage.

By Laura Molgaard | JULY 11, 2023 — 5:30PM

DIDESIGN021, GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Persian cat with veterinarian doctor at vet clinic



HUTCHINSON Leader 27°

Home News Sports Business Extra! Photo/Video Jobs Classifieds In-Paper Ads

TOP STORY

Veterinarian shortage has local impact

BY JANEAN SORRELL | jsorrell@hutchinsonleader.com | Sep 27, 2023 Updated Sep 27, 2023

1 of 4

Dr. John Froning makes phone calls to owners to advise them of lab results. Froning considers this break time as it's the only time in the day when he gets to sit down.
Staff photos by Janean Sorrell





Asset Preservation: \$3.81M

Asset Preservation is critical to address the Zoo's **\$67 million of deferred maintenance**, ensuring the campus remains a safe, secure, and world-class destination.

Priority needs include:

- Heat Plant Boiler Replacement
- Fenceline Improvements
- Masonry and Roof Replacements
- Bridge Decking/Railing Repair
- ADA Improvements
- HVAC & Life Support Systems
- Animal Holding & Exhibits



Deteriorating Aquatic Life Support System



Rusted Mechanical Piping





Questions?



MINNESOTA ZOO