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In a fascinating study supported by MAF at the University of Washington, research revealed that the low birthrates in some African elephant herds are due to the traumatic effects of past poaching practices. Brutal poaching that occurred between 1979 and 1987 in Mikumi National Park decimated the African elephant population. Because female elephants operate in close family groups throughout their lives, the death of so many family members

appears to have increased stress levels and reduced reproductive rates. Significant research results like these can alter future conservation policies so that elephants will have a fighting chance.

By your helping us understand the effects of conflict between humans and wildlife, we can ensure their protection!

When you make a gift to MAF, you support leading scientists, institutions and organizations around the globe to make wildlife healthy and ensure their survival.

Please invest today in the science that preserves a future for all animals: ***Entire species are depending on you.***

Warmest regards,

Patricia N. Olson, DVM, Ph.D.
President, CEO

P.S. Your donation helps us improve treatments and find cures for diseases that injure and kill dogs, cats, horses and llamas as well as mountain gorillas, sea otters, giant pandas, elephants and many other species. Won't you please give as generously as you can today?

Charity Navigator ranks MAF as a four-star charity, the highest rating.
Visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org

Dear Friend of Morris Animal Foundation (MAF),

As a generous supporter, you already know how much MAF cares about dogs, cats, horses and llamas. You're aware that our beloved animals are living longer, healthier lives because of MAF's groundbreaking studies and unique programs like the Canine Cancer Campaign, the Equine Health Initiative and our upcoming Happy Healthy Cat Campaign. To learn more about these programs, please visit our Web site, www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

Morris Animal Foundation loves wildlife, too. In this letter, I want to tell you about what MAF is doing to save our endangered wildlife. For 40 years, we've funded research to help many, many species, such as elephants, gorillas, cheetahs, giraffes, pandas, otters, amphibians, birds, turtles, foxes and wolves. Almost certainly, our research has benefited your favorite wild animal at some point. We have even funded crucial research on the Tasmanian devil!

With your help, we can continue to save lives in the wild!

When it comes to MAF's work with wildlife, we aren't just talking about curing diseases. We are talking about saving entire species: for example, saving the last 700 mountain gorillas on Earth.

In 1985, anthropologist Dian Fossey appealed to MAF for veterinary medical help in saving the magnificent mountain gorillas from extinction. In response, MAF founded the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP), a program in east-central Africa that provides emergency veterinary care to these precious animals in their natural habitat.

The results from the program have been stunning. Due to funding by MAF, veterinarians working in Africa can now make near-instant diagnoses in the field and prevent infections from spreading and devastating entire family groups of mountain gorillas. Another of MGVP's unique initiatives protects



mountain gorillas by screening park employees and their families for possible contagious diseases that can spread to the gorillas – a critical and highly effective process that helps the people and the animals. Thanks in

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part to programs like MGVP, today's mountain gorilla population has grown — the only great ape species to do so. Over the years, MGVP has successfully expanded and diversified into an entire ecosystem-based conservation program and, with MAF's help, is now its own nonprofit organization — MGVP, Inc. — directed by Dr. Michael Cranfield of the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. To this day, we continue to fund MGVP, Inc.'s veterinary care program and consider the scientists and veterinarians working with the gorillas to be outstanding partners in advancing animal health. You can learn more about MGVP, Inc. by visiting both MAF's Web site and www.MGVP.org.

When you donate today to MAF, you are helping to preserve a species' future.

Watching sea otters swim and play in the waters along the California coast is a heart-warming experience. But with only an estimated 2,800 remaining in the wild, these furry marine mammals are highly endangered. For the past 10 years, MAF has funded a series of critical health studies to help save these southern sea otters from extinction.

More than 40 percent of sea otters die of infectious diseases, so MAF research has focused on environmental factors and the deadly parasites causing these illnesses. Much of our funding has been awarded to scientists from University of California-Davis and the Marine Mammal Center, although we continue to learn more and more about sea otter health from as far away as the University of Connecticut. One of MAF's study findings was shocking: ***One of the greatest dangers facing California sea otters today comes from people improperly disposing of cat litter!*** Cats carry a parasite called *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite that is harmless to its host but wreaks havoc once its eggs are shed in cat feces due to improper disposal. The egg-laden feces are then absorbed into the groundwater and, eventually, reach the sea. Shellfish take in the eggs and sea otters become ill when eating the infected shellfish. This work led to the enactment of a state law making dumping or flushing cat litter illegal, triggering public awareness

campaigns about how this practice can affect the sea otter population and strengthening protection for marine animals.

Additional MAF-funded research for the entire sea otter population living along the Pacific Coast of North America, including Alaska, has focused on disease prevalence surveys, heart disease such as endocarditis and cardiomyopathy, immunity



problems associated with domoic acid exposure from algae blooms, and even a marine mammal form of distemper.

But more work needs to be done. Your gift ensures that we can continue to find ways of helping sea otters and other coastal wildlife flourish.

Giant pandas are among the world's most adorable — and adored — animals. Unfortunately, the low rate of successful panda births in captivity and in the wild has caused serious concern about the future of these mammals. MAF research has helped this species make a dramatic turnaround by understanding their unique reproductive cycles and developing successful artificial insemination (AI) protocols for the giant panda.

With MAF research funding at the Smithsonian Institution's National Zoological Park and Zoo Atlanta, in collaboration with Chinese scientists at the Wolong Research Center and the Chengdu Research Base, scientists have perfected the AI protocols. Two baby pandas, Tai Shan and Mei Lan, captured hearts all over the world when they were born at these two American zoos in 2005 and 2006!

Not only has MAF's research increased the number of healthy panda births in zoos, but the same protocols have also been successfully implemented in the wild at these collaborating Chinese panda preserves. With your help, MAF is proud to have funded the research that has helped preserve the darling giant panda.

Funding groundbreaking studies that improve treatments and find cures for our animal friends requires the ongoing support of animal lovers like you.

For more than 20 years, MAF has funded studies that have helped Asian and African elephants. The world's largest land animals, elephants face severe survival challenges in captivity and in the wild. Our efforts have improved elephant nutrition and reproductive rates and has addressed their habitat loss.



Photo Courtesy of Memphis Zoo