



# Conservation Medicine at the International Crane Foundation

The mission of the International Crane Foundation's Conservation Medicine Department is to support crane conservation through the application of specialized veterinary medical and diagnostic services, scientific research, and mentorship. Our goals are to improve crane survival, productivity, and welfare; positively affect the recovery of endangered species and managed populations; and understand threats to free-ranging populations to develop solutions.



*Photo by Christoph Mans*

## Our Impact

The health risks to cranes across the globe are varied and often not well understood. We hope to learn more about and act on these threats for the conservation of cranes. We work across the broad landscapes where cranes live, and we have positioned ourselves to coordinate knowledge and action on threats to the health of cranes from a global perspective. The International Crane Foundation's Conservation Medicine Department aligns our activities to provide support to the foundation's headquarters, regional programs, and priority projects to improve the health and welfare of cranes on this local-to-global continuum.

Our expertise in Conservation Medicine helps ensure healthy, resilient wild and captive populations of cranes as we move to secure all 15 species for the future. Though centered on our veterinary experience with cranes, we work across numerous fields, striving for the welfare of cranes, people, and landscapes that support them. Our work in Conservation Medicine uses veterinary science to confirm the status of cranes through various departmental focuses such as:

[Medical management of captive cranes at the International Crane Foundation.](#) We coordinate a strong preventive medicine and nutrition program, and provide comprehensive medical and surgical services

for our flock of over 100 cranes. We maintain a modern, well-equipped on-site clinic, laboratory, and hospital facilities, and a secure bio-bank of valuable genetic and blood specimens from International Crane Foundation projects dating back to the 1980s.

**Support of crane conservation at home and abroad.** We support the captive breeding and rearing needs for endangered cranes, locally at the International Crane Foundation, and through consultation with partners at other zoos in the U.S. and internationally. We also support the International Crane Foundation's global and regional programs with training and collaborative research efforts to understand threats to free-ranging populations and develop solutions.

**Research and publication.** Our team conducts conservation-relevant health research to improve crane survival, productivity, and welfare both here and abroad. Since 2000, we have published 40 peer-reviewed scientific articles to communicate our findings to interested parties around the world. These

articles span work in several species, from both captive and wild cranes, and in different regions.



**Conservation Leadership.** Our department is dedicated to training the next generation of veterinarians in the principles of avian and conservation medicine through the model of cranes. We currently mentor multiple residents in crane medicine and offer specialized, directed educational opportunities for others who wish to learn more about the conservation medicine of cranes.

## We Need Your Support

The International Crane Foundation Conservation Medicine Department coordinates care of cranes in our zoological collection, facilitates the captive breeding and care of endangered Whooping Cranes for reintroduction in the U.S., collaborates on priority projects within the International Crane Foundation's regional programs, and is a model for training the next generation of veterinarians with conservation interests. ***Please join us in promoting the health and welfare of cranes found around the world.***

### For More Information Contact:

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