



Cornell University

Wildlife Health Cornell

A College of Veterinary Medicine Center of Excellence

THE CORNELL VETERINARY BIOBANK & CONSERVATION



Christine Bogdanowicz

WHAT IS A BIOBANK?

A biobank is defined as a facility that follows standardized operating procedures for the collection, preservation, processing, and storage of biological samples and associated data; the samples and data are then made available to a wide variety of research projects.

There are thousands of biobanks throughout the United States and around the world that provide samples and data to researchers in both the academic and private sectors.

THE CORNELL VETERINARY BIOBANK

The Cornell Veterinary Biobank is housed in state-of-the-art facilities at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. The Biobank's goal is to facilitate and enhance research into diseases that impact both human and animal populations, leading to improvements in the health and well-being of people, animals and ecosystems.

The Biobank seeks to accelerate translational research that will ultimately result in safer, more effective disease treatments.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR WILDLIFE: TWO CASE STUDIES

The Biobank recently received a collection of bald eagle samples from the National Park Service (NPS). As part of the Great Lakes Inventory and Monitoring Network, the collected feather and blood samples from nestling and adult eagles over a period of nine years includes approximately 2,000 samples. Integration of these samples into the Cornell Veterinary Biobank will expand their value to a broader range of research projects. The samples will be made available to research teams at Cornell and beyond to help increase our understanding of this iconic and beloved species of raptor.

Biobanked samples often support clinical studies that can lead to the successful diagnosis and treatment of patients, as well as analyses that can support the conservation of animal populations beyond the confines of the hospital.

Tissue samples newly collected at Cornell from the eye lesions of one such patient — a Canada Goose — are now part of the biobank library. Using genetics techniques such as next generation sequencing, clinicians and researchers will be able to use this tissue to isolate potential pathogens and develop treatments for future use. Thanks to our biobank and the expertise of Cornell's veterinarians, the story of this one goose may one day translate into good news for entire flocks of wild geese, and other waterfowl.

