

2022 2023 annual report



Friends of the Island Fox

a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization • EIN #84-5114320

Celebrating 25 Years of Island Fox Conservation

Twenty-five years after teetering at the brink of extinction on 4 islands, island foxes are now flourishing. Friends of the Island Fox has been a dedicated ally in island fox conservation since 2005. Each year we learn more and, with your help, improvements are made in island fox health and monitoring. Saving island foxes continues to be a community effort.

Vaccinating 650 Island Foxes!

You helped FIF reach a new goal! Vaccine against canine distemper virus (CDV) and rabies is going into the field to protect 100 island foxes on each of San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands, and 350 foxes on Santa Catalina Island. CDV poses a deadly threat and the vaccine must be boosted annually, making this one of the most costly and important efforts for island fox health each year. Donors like you, school children, a “Recycling for Foxes Project,” and grants from the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden “Satch Krantz Conservation Fund” and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Wildlife Conservation Fund supported \$13,571 in vaccine.

53 Radio-tracking Collars and a New Radio Receiver

For 25 years, radio-tracking collars have proven the best technology for monitoring island fox survival. This year 17 new and 36 refurbished collars were deployed across Santa Cruz and Santa Catalina Islands. These collars were supported by Island Fox Ambassador children, private donors, and a grant from the Fresno Chaffee Zoo Wildlife Conservation Fund. After 25 years of use, new radio receivers are needed across the islands. A special donation funded a new state-of-the-art radio receiver; this investment will support island fox monitoring for years to come.

Island Ecosystem Research

Should island spotted skunks be considered a separate species? The 2022 FIF Research Grant provided \$5,000 toward UC Davis researcher Julia Owen’s project to map the spotted skunk genome. Island spotted skunks declined as island foxes recovered, yet the reasons remain unknown. Owen’s investigation will help determine whether island spotted skunks are unique and should be considered for endangered species status.

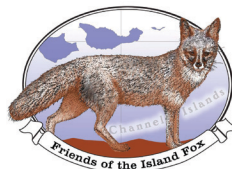


How are island foxes doing?

Winter rains bolstered island ecosystems and pup numbers increased. All populations remain stable, but climate change is challenging island foxes to adapt to both extreme heat and drought, winter flooding, and unprecedented weather, like a tropical storm.

Stay current with island fox news through FIF’s enewsletter. To subscribe, visit islandfox.org.

Images, top to bottom:
J. Schamel, NPS; Catalina
Island Conservancy; National
Park Service; J. Schamel, NPS
Inset: Megan Sarraill
Reverse: Michael Lawshé



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More numbers to yip about



25
FIF helped celebrate the 25th meeting of the Island Fox Conservation Working Group and the success of conservation efforts

\$600
raised from island spotted skunk pins will analyze dietary data in skunk whisker samples at the University of New Mexico Stable Isotope Lab

51 donors joined FIF on a trip to Santa Cruz Island and contributed to vaccinating island foxes (see photo above)

\$4100 helped test island foxes for five viruses of concern on Catalina Island

20 island foxes vaccinated from proceeds from Ventura Maritime Museum's "Scent of the Islands" candle

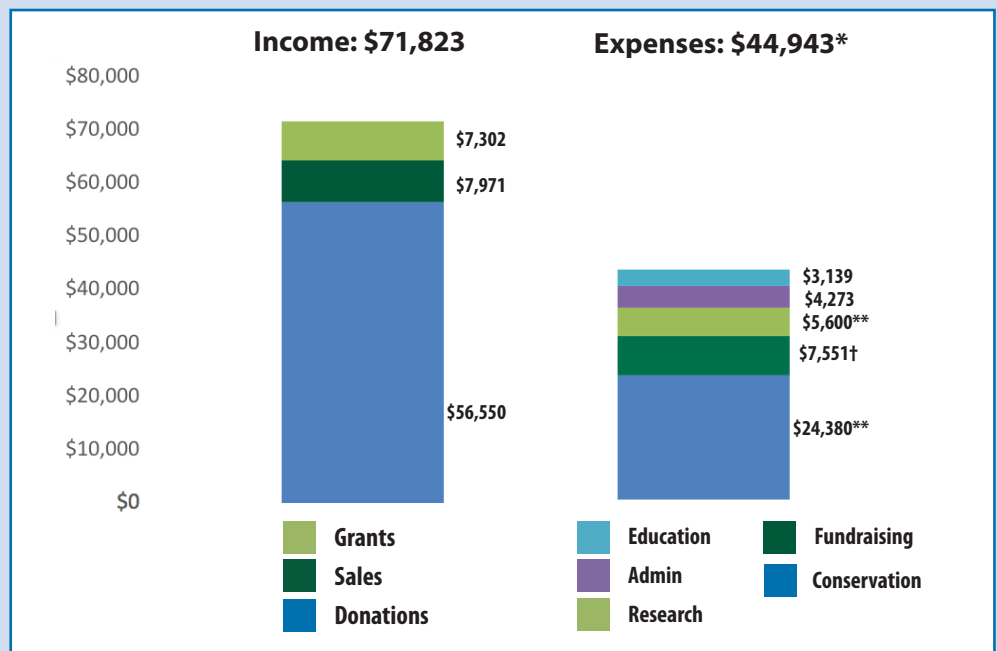
15 volunteers spread the word about island foxes to 3,391 people at programs and events

What's next?

FIF's priorities for 2023–2024:

- Leading the support of scientific investigations regarding the Channel Island ecosystem and co-sponsoring the California Island Symposium
- Vaccinating 650 island foxes in 2024
- Funding radio-tracking collars and purchasing 2 additional radio-tracking receiver units
- Maintaining support for island fox health and conservation efforts
- Restructuring FIF's website

Friends of the Island Fox 2022–2023 Financials



* The last installment of \$6,941 for CDV vaccine was paid out in the first month of the 2023–24 fiscal year and is therefore not included in the financials reported here.

** At the close of the 2022–23 fiscal year, \$4,560 for 20 radio collars and \$600 for island spotted skunk whisker analysis were outstanding expenses and are included in these figures.

† \$3,187 of the Fundraising expense was offset by island trip participants.

The Board of Directors audits FIF's financial records annually.