



Dr. Mike Wenninger

Director of Animal Health, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

From a young age, Dr. Mike Wenninger knew he was destined to work with animals. Growing up in Wisconsin, his curiosity about wildlife inspired a lifelong commitment to understanding and caring for animals of all kinds. After earning his undergraduate degree in zoology, he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Wisconsin in 2004.

Dr. Mike's career has taken him from caring for companion animals and exotics in private practice to serving as an associate zoo veterinarian in California. Today, he is the Director of Animal Health at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, where he leads a skilled team providing world-class medical, surgical, emergency, and nutritional care for more than 2,200 animals.

Deeply dedicated to conservation, Dr. Mike contributes to local and international efforts to protect wildlife and their habitats. He also serves as a Veterinary Advisor for both the Parrot and Lizard Taxon Advisory Groups within the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). His experience treating everything from fish to elephants—and his belief that every species deserves the highest standard of veterinary care—make him an inspiring leader and educator.

Dr. Mike looks forward to sharing his expertise, stories, and passion for animal care and conservation on this unforgettable journey to the Galápagos Islands.