



WellBeing
INTERNATIONAL

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

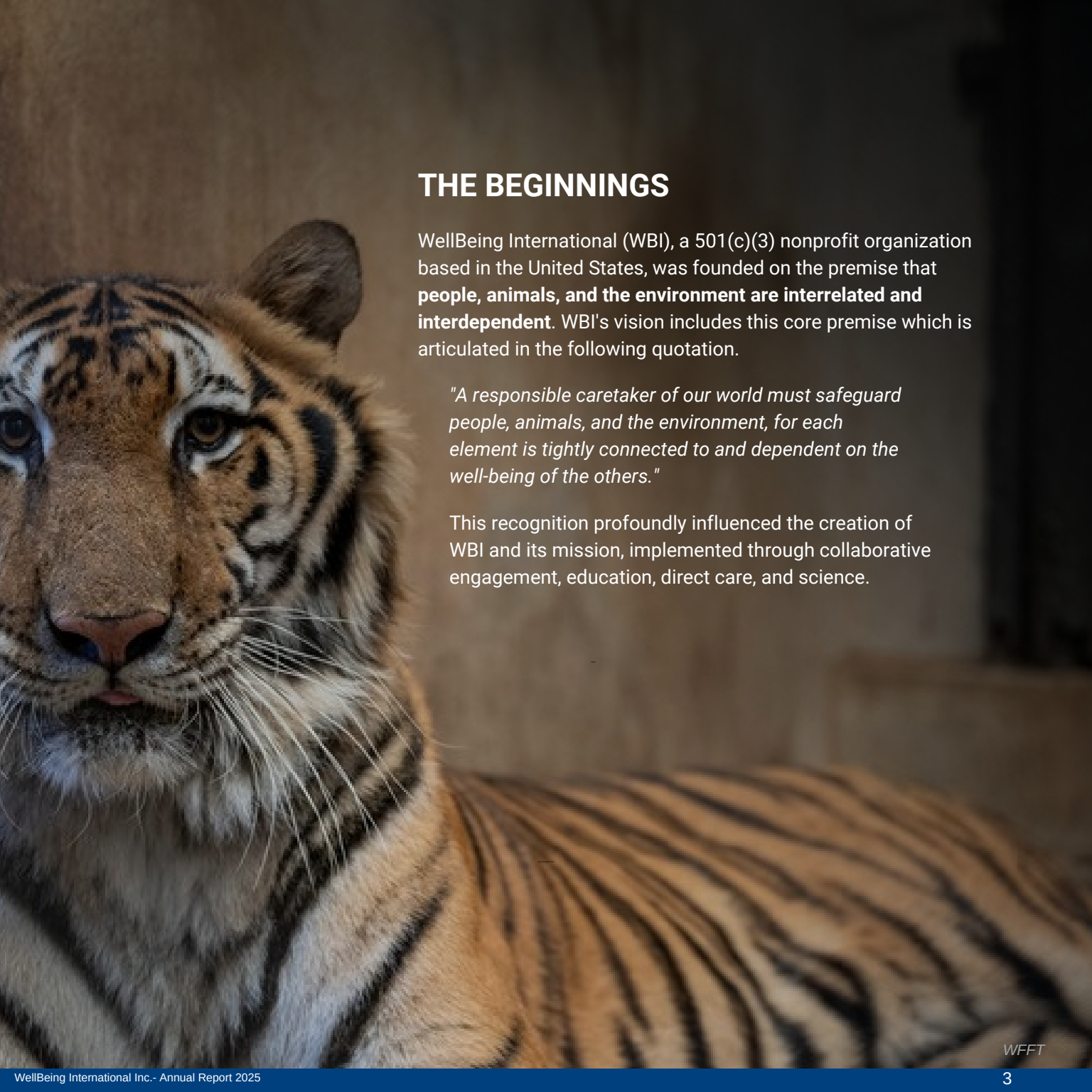




BodyBucsa Nicolae, iStock

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THE BEGINNINGS

WellBeing International (WBI), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in the United States, was founded on the premise that **people, animals, and the environment are interrelated and interdependent**. WBI's vision includes this core premise which is articulated in the following quotation.

"A responsible caretaker of our world must safeguard people, animals, and the environment, for each element is tightly connected to and dependent on the well-being of the others."

This recognition profoundly influenced the creation of WBI and its mission, implemented through collaborative engagement, education, direct care, and science.

Message from the President Andrew Rowan



When WellBeing International, Inc. was founded, we recognized that the well-being of people, animals, and the environment is fundamentally interconnected. Today, that understanding is increasingly reflected in research, policy discussions, and efforts to address global challenges.

Issues ranging from biodiversity and climate change to public health and animal welfare remind us that lasting solutions must consider the relationships among all three dimensions of well-being. Throughout 2025, WBI continued to advance this vision through education, collaboration, and access to trusted scientific information. While important challenges remain, there is reason for optimism. Scientific advances, innovative ideas, and growing collaboration are creating new opportunities to improve the well-being of people, animals, and the environment alike.

We are most grateful to our donors, partners, volunteers, and supporters whose commitment makes this work possible. Together, we are building a healthier, more humane, and more sustainable future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Rowan".



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WBI PROGRAMS

WBI programs are not siloed but interrelated, and organizational resources are leveraged to deliver across all campaigns and focus areas.



Animals in Conflict: a campaign to assist humans and animals in areas of war and ongoing conflict, such as Ukraine and Afghanistan.



Global Awareness: a campaign aiming to identify and emphasize behavior change solutions that enhance the well-being of people, animals, and the environment.



Democratizing Information: a program providing a free, accessible digital repository, a virtual reservoir of reliable knowledge and information on the well-being of people, animals, and the environment.



Animals in Our World: A program dedicated to ensuring animals are included in every conversation about environmental and human well-being, recognizing their essential role in a healthier, more sustainable world.



Animal Sentience: a program enhancing understanding of the topic, raising global awareness of its significance, and encouraging decisions leading to a humane and sustainable world.



Feel Better: a campaign to provide trusted information to individuals enabling them to make better choices for themselves, others, animals, and the environment.

WBI FOCUS AREAS

- Companion & Working Animals
 - WellBeing International Studies Repository
 - *Animal Sentience*
 - Animals in Research & Testing
 - Farmed Animals & Land Use
- Climate, the UN & Biodiversity
 - Health
 - Wildlife
 - Wild Lands & Re-Wilding
 - Ukraine Rescue, Relief & Rebuild

GLOBAL AWARENESS

Climate change, biodiversity, animal welfare, public health, and human well-being are deeply interconnected. Through its Global Awareness Campaign, WellBeing International promotes understanding of these connections and encourages informed action.

WBI's articles, newsletters, webinars, websites, and educational resources help bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and real-world solutions. The WellBeing International Studies Repository extends this mission by providing free access to trusted research and educational materials worldwide.

Knowledge inspires action. Action creates change.

Featured Articles:

[Antimicrobial Resistance: A Serious Global Health Threat: Part 1](#)

WBN, Vol 7(03)

[Antimicrobial Resistance: A Serious Global Health Threat: Part 2](#)

ToW, Vol 7(04)

[Antimicrobial Resistance: Protecting Antimicrobial Effectiveness: Part 3](#)

WBN, Vol 7(05)

[Combating Wildlife Smuggling](#)

WBN, Vol 7(08)

[Great White Sharks in Film and Life](#)

WBN, Vol 7(07)

[Shades of Hitchcock's Film "The Birds"](#)

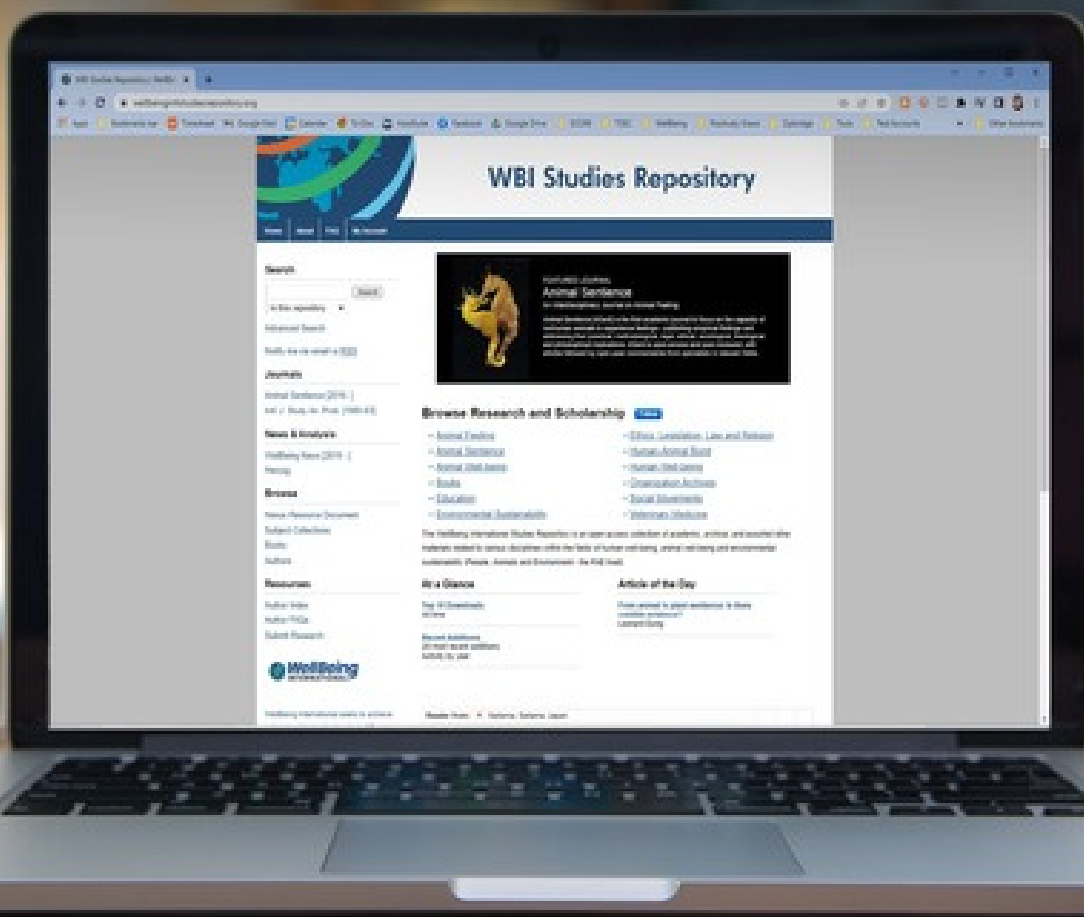
ToW, Vol 7(01)

WELLBEING INTERNATIONAL STUDIES REPOSITORY

In 2025, the WellBeing International Studies Repository (WBISR) reached 1,066,310 uses, nearly double its 2024 audience. The *Animal Sentience* journal also experienced substantial growth, attracting 227,718 uses during the year.

Since its launch in 2014, the Repository has recorded 4.71 million uses and served more than 9,540 institutions across 234 countries and regions. By providing free access to scholarly papers, books, reports, educational resources, and journals, WBISR advances WBI's commitment to democratizing information worldwide.

Free access to trusted knowledge empowers informed action around the world.



ANIMAL SENTIENCE

"Sentience is the capacity to feel, whether positive, neutral, or negative, and includes the capacity to suffer. Sentience is different from sapience, the capacity to think."

~Stevan R. Harnad, PhD, Editor-in-Chief, Animal Sentience

Dr. Harnad's definition captures the central focus of Animal Sentience: the scientific study of the capacity of humans and other animals to feel. This concept echoes Jeremy Bentham's enduring observation that, in considering the treatment of animals, the relevant question is not whether they can reason or speak, but whether they can suffer.

Through *Animal Sentience*, WellBeing International provides a global forum for interdisciplinary scholarship on animal sentience and its implications for science, ethics, policy, and practice. By advancing understanding of sentience, the journal helps inform more compassionate, evidence-based decisions affecting animals worldwide.

Communicating with Animals

ToW, Vol 7(02).

Wild Dolphin Project & Engaging with Dolphins

ToW, Vol 7(06).

Whale Sentience & Scientific Serendipity

WBN, Vol 7(02).

"The Edge of Sentience" by Jonathan Birch

ToW, Vol 7(01).

"The Moral Circle" by Jeff Sebo-Book Review

ToW, Vol 7(02).

ANIMAL SENTIENCE JOURNAL

Now in its tenth year, Animal Sentience publishes open-access, peer-reviewed debates on whether, how, and which beings experience consciousness. The journal helps readers explore sentience across species and disciplines.

ANIMALS IN OUR WORLD

From the oceans to our neighborhoods, animals play vital roles in the well-being of people, communities, and the environment. Throughout 2025, WBI highlighted a diverse range of species and the challenges they face, while sharing research and thoughtful solutions that support both people and animals. Topics ranged from the ecosystem benefits provided by beavers and the remarkable intelligence of crows to conservation concerns for African penguins, wild horse and elephant management, and the ecology of great white sharks. Together, these stories foster greater awareness of the many animals, particularly companion dogs and cats, with whom we share our world.

[Elephant Management in South Africa](#)
WWBN, Vol 7(01)

[Wild Horse Management and Protection](#)
WWBN, Vol 7(06)

[US Dog Populations](#)
WBN, Vol 7(01)

[The Community Cat Conundrum](#)
WBN, Vol 7(04)

[The Doggie in the Window](#)
WBN, Vol 7(06)



BIODIVERSITY & CLIMATE CHANGE

Animals are central to conversations about biodiversity and climate change. Throughout 2025, WBI explored topics ranging from food systems and climate policy to water resources, forest restoration, and species conservation. These articles highlighted practical approaches to creating a healthier and more sustainable future.

[COP30: Follow-Up and Outcomes](#)

[WBN, Vol 7\(10\).](#)

[COP30: Realignment?](#)

[WBN, Vol 7\(09\)](#)

[Global Water Supply](#)

[WBN, Vol 7\(01\).](#)

[Review - Not the *End of the World*](#)

[ToW, Vol 7\(04\).](#)

[Protecting New Zealand Biodiversity](#)

[WBN, Vol 7\(03\).](#)

[Penguin Passions and Shrinking Populations](#)

[ToW, Vol 7\(08\).](#)

Ingo Bartussek, Shutterstock

FEEL BETTER

WBI tracks the development of scientific advances that benefit human health and well-being while reducing the use of animals in medical research and safety testing. For example, new brain organoid techniques can support innovative studies in developmental neurotoxicity and possibly identify links to autism.

[World Happiness Report 2025](#)

ToW, Vol 7(03).

[Healthy Aging: Exercise, Diet and Maintaining Connections: A Case Study](#)

ToW, Vol 7(06).

["The Anxious Generation" by Jonathan Haidt](#)

ToW, Vol 7(07).

[Ewaso Lions - The Power of Community-led Conservation](#)

ToW, Vol 7(11).

[The Jingles Awards: The Power of Anecdotes](#)

ToW, Vol 7(05).

SCIENCE AND WELL-BEING

Scientific advances are reshaping our understanding of health, disease, and the relationship between people and animals. In 2025, WBI highlighted innovations that may improve human well-being while reducing reliance on animals in research and safety testing.

Examples included the use of dogs' remarkable sense of smell to detect disease-associated compounds and the growing adoption of New Approach Methods, or NAMs, in biomedical research and safety testing. Together, these developments point toward scientific progress that benefits both people and animals.

Innovation can advance human health while reducing the use of animals in research.

[Getting it Together, Ending Lab Animal Use](#)

WBN, Vol 7(04)

[D\[ia\]gnostics](#)

ToW, Vol 7(08)

[Veteran Suicide and the Benefits of Service Animals](#)

ToW, Vol 7(03)

[Man Bites Dog: Indian Supreme Court Conundrum](#)

WBN, Vol 7(07)

[Evolving Ethics: Apes in Laboratories](#)

ToW, Vol 7(07)

[Alternatives to Laboratory Animals](#)

WBN, Vol 7(08)

galitskaya, iStock

FARMED ANIMALS

In 2025, WBI explored the connections among farmed animal welfare, antimicrobial resistance, sustainable diets, and global well-being. Articles examined how intensive animal agriculture affects human, animal, and environmental health, including the continued use of medically important antimicrobials in animal production.

WBI also highlighted debates over cage farming, regenerative agriculture, sustainable diets, and the evolving definition of animal welfare, encouraging readers to consider how food systems shape the well-being of people, animals, and the planet.

Food systems are central to the well-being of people, animals, and the planet.

Defining Animal Welfare

WBN, Vol 7(07)

Farmed Animal Investments and Global Well-being

ToW, Vol 7(03)

The EAT-Lancet Commission's 2025 Report

WBN, Vol 7(11)

Ending Cage Farming in the EU: The Fight for Animal Welfare

WBN, Vol 7(08)

"Regenerative Farming and Sustainable Diets: Human, Animal and Planetary Health" by Joyce D'Silva and Carol McKenna

WBN, Vol 6(11)

proficip, iStock

UKRAINE RESCUE, RELIEF & REBUILD

The war in Ukraine continues to affect both people and animals through displacement, loss, and ongoing danger. WBI established the Ukraine Rescue, Relief and Rebuild consortium to support partner organizations helping animals and communities affected by the conflict.

WBI and its partners remain committed to immediate rescue and relief, as well as rebuilding when conditions allow.



WBI is deeply grateful to the donors, foundations, corporations, and partners who supported U3R in 2025. Your generosity helped provide care, safety, and relief for animals and people in Ukraine and surrounding regions.



In western Ukraine, near the borders of Slovakia and Hungary, the BARBOS Animal Shelter provides a lifeline for animals with nowhere else to turn. Founded after years of community advocacy, BARBOS is the first official dog and cat shelter in the city of Uzhhorod and serves as a refuge for abandoned, injured, and displaced animals. The shelter currently cares for more than 200 dogs, dozens of cats, and several farm animals, providing food, medical care, rehabilitation, and long-term shelter despite the continuing challenges of war.

During 2025, WBI expanded its engagement with BARBOS through the Ukraine Rescue, Relief + Rebuild (U3R) Consortium. In September, WBI conducted a site assessment with consortium partner Sloboda Zvierat (SZ), one of Slovakia's leading animal welfare organizations. The visit highlighted both the extraordinary dedication of shelter staff and volunteers and the importance of international partnerships in strengthening local animal welfare capacity.

From emergency rescue and sheltering to long-term recovery and community engagement, BARBOS exemplifies how local dedication and international partnership can improve the lives of animals while helping communities build a more compassionate and resilient future. Through its collaboration with BARBOS, Sloboda Zvierat, and other U3R partners, WellBeing International is helping strengthen that future one community at a time.



[Winter Storm Puppy Rescue](#)
[See video](#)

Even during wartime, compassion endures. Through local leadership and international partnership, vulnerable animals are finding safety, care, and hope.

Looking Forward from the CEO

Kathleen Rowan



Throughout 2025, WellBeing International continued to advance its mission of improving the well-being of people, animals, and the environment through education, collaboration, and science-based engagement. Building on our long-standing commitment to the interconnectedness of these three dimensions of well-being, we expanded access to trusted information, strengthened partnerships, and supported initiatives that encourage informed decision-making and positive change.

As the global landscape evolves, new opportunities are emerging to address complex challenges in innovative ways. Advances in science, technology, and data analytics are creating powerful tools that can deepen understanding, improve outcomes, and help inform more effective solutions.

WBI remains committed to exploring these developments while fostering thoughtful dialogue about their responsible application.

We are encouraged by the growing recognition that progress for people, animals, and the environment is interconnected. Meaningful and lasting change is achieved when knowledge, compassion, and collaboration work together.

On behalf of WBI's Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and partners, I extend my sincere gratitude to our donors, supporters, and friends. Your commitment makes this work possible. Together, we are helping build a healthier, more humane, and more sustainable future for all.

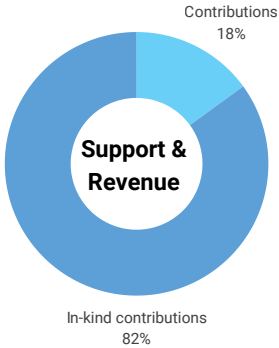
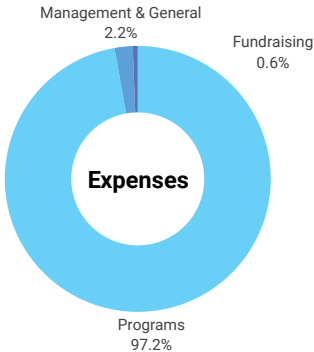
Kathleen Rowan
Chief Executive Officer

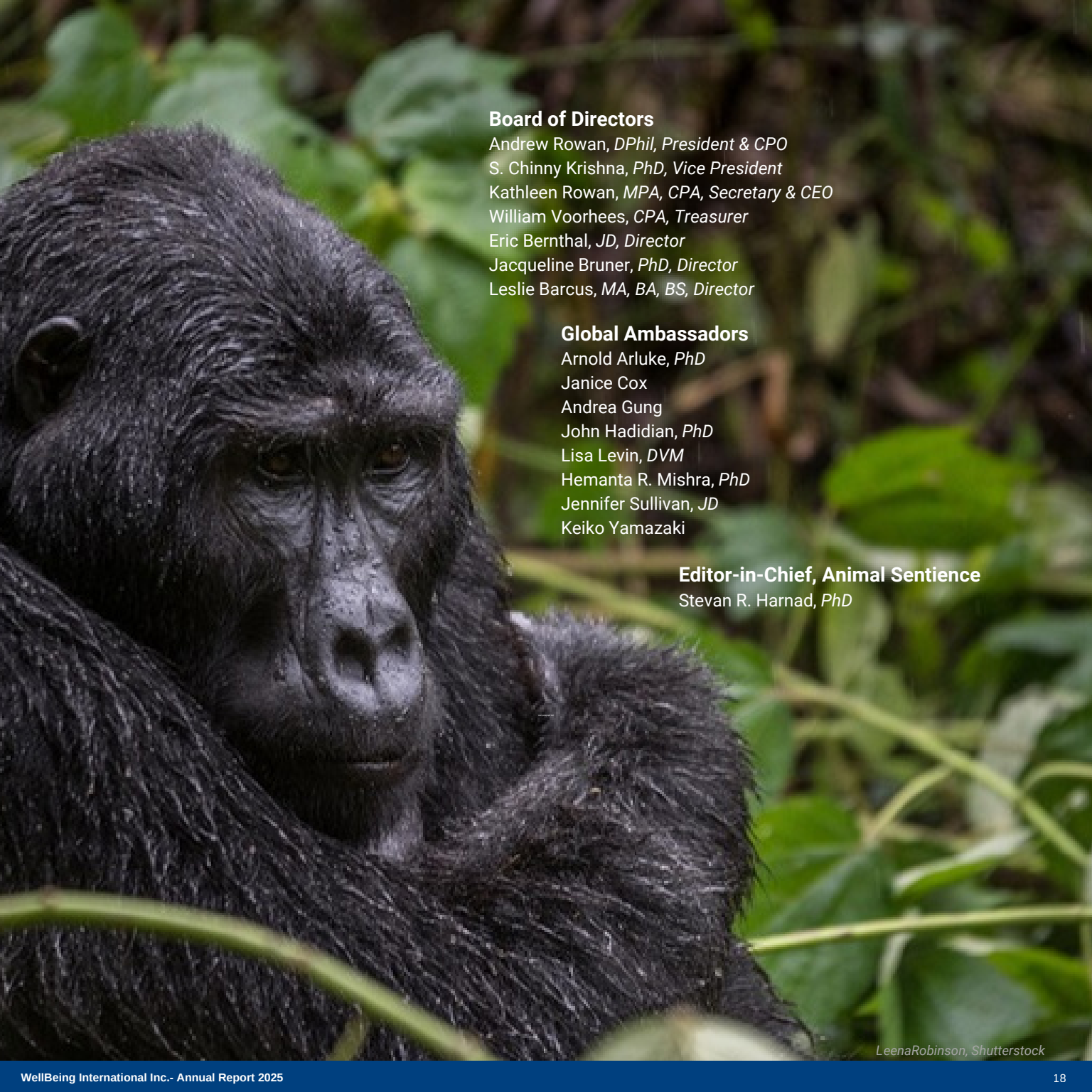


Financial Operations Report *for the year ending December 31, 2025*

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)			
Assets		Liabilities	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$11,857	Liabilities	\$9,323
Contributions and grant receivables	3,500	Net Assets	
Pre-paid expenses	23,127	Without donor restrictions	14,531
Non-current assets	5,370	With donor restrictions	20,000
		Total Net Assets	34,531
Total Assets	\$43,854	Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$43,854
Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets (Audited)			
Support and Revenue	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions	\$41,713	\$ 6,191	\$47,904
In-kind contributions	567,594	-	567,594
Net assets released from donor restrictions	56,191	(56,191)	-
Total Support and Revenue	\$665,498	(50,000)	\$615,498
Expenses			
Program Services			
Healthy, Humane Communities	143,684	-	143,684
Sustainability-People, Animals & Environment	78,738	-	78,738
Education, Engagement & Policy	433,519	-	433,519
Partner Support & Collaboration	8,994	-	8,994
Total program services	664,935	-	664,935
Supporting Services			
Management & general	14,768	-	14,768
Fundraising	4,572	-	4,572
Total supporting services	19,340	-	19,340
Total Expenses	684,275	-	684,275
Change in Net Assets	(18,777)	(50,000)	(68,777)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$33,308	\$70,000	\$103,308
Net Assets at End of Year	\$14,531	\$20,000	\$34,531

WBI is a platinum-level GuideStar participant demonstrating its commitment to transparency.





Board of Directors

Andrew Rowan, *DPhil, President & CPO*

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Leslie Barcus, *MA, BA, BS, Director*

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Janice Cox

Andrea Gung

John Hadidian, *PhD*

Lisa Levin, *DVM*

Hemanta R. Mishra, *PhD*

Jennifer Sullivan, *JD*

Keiko Yamazaki

Editor-in-Chief, Animal Sentience

Stevan R. Harnad, *PhD*

More than Friends

