

A Better Way for Veterinary Infusions

Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle Innovates With DripAssist™ Infusion Rate Monitor



Photo by Darin Collins

Woodland Park Zoo has been an important Seattle institution since it opened in 1899. It's a regional community asset that draws more than one million visitors per year, and houses more than 1,200 animals representing over 300 species, 70 of which are threatened with extinction. For the nine person veterinary staff, including veterinary technicians, veterinarians and specialized keepers, that means **a non-stop cycle of health examinations on top of additional procedures from unexpected health concerns seven days a week**. To keep things running smoothly, the staff works hard to keep current on emerging research and new practices for the highest standard of care.

Since January 2016, Woodland Park Zoo veterinary staff have been using the **DripAssist Infusion Rate Monitor** from Shift Labs to help them more easily track and manage IV fluid volumes for their patients. DripAssist is a **handheld, battery-operated gravity infusion monitor** that allows them to continuously monitor a gravity infusion for rate and volume. **DripAssist eliminates the need for drop counting and constant manual checking of an infusion.**

DripAssist has helped Woodland Park Zoo staff during dozens of scheduled and acute procedures, including wellness checks on an orangutan and a colobus monkey, dental care for a lion-tailed macaque and a jaguar, on site treatment for a warthog, and procedures for rabbits and raccoons, and for a mountain goat in the field. The veterinary staff uses DripAssist whenever fluids are necessary for their mammals.



Woodland Park Zoo's veterinary technicians say **they trust DripAssist because it's accurate, and can effortlessly travel to wherever the job takes them.** Staff have used DripAssist in the clinic, in the ambulance, and in the field, often times moving DripAssist easily from one setting to another as they transfer a patient. **"It really helps that it's so easy to use,"** noted Linda Moneymaker, a veterinary technician at Woodland Park Zoo. "You can throw anyone at it" because it requires no special training, which is particularly useful in the field where zookeepers are able to easily tell the total volume dispensed without any **previous experience with DripAssist.**



"I was immediately excited for DripAssist's potential use in both zoo and wildlife medicine – being light, portable, battery powered and very user friendly was immediately evident," said Senior Veterinary Technician Harmony Frazier.

When they first acquired DripAssist, the veterinary staff tested it for accuracy with their infusion pump. Once it passed the accuracy test, they started relying on DripAssist more and more. **"Moving our more standard, plug-in infusion pump from room to room or treatment to ambulance is just not practical,"** added Frazier, echoing what we've heard in many veterinary settings. "You don't even need an IV pole and you can trust the battery to last," said Kimberly Dawson, a veterinary technician at the zoo.

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"I like having the digital number as you're moving the roller clamp to adjust flow rate," said Lindsay Wesselmann, another veterinary technician at the zoo. In addition to the quick digital readout of flow rate, DripAssist tracks total fluid volume, which is crucial for their team. Given the nature of many of their procedures, the time to completion is often uncertain. This means the staff have to be aware constantly of the amount of fluid a patient has received and how much more is required. DripAssist helps them monitor infusion flow rates and volumes quickly, easily, and accurately.



In a few short months, Woodland Park Zoo has come to rely on DripAssist for the infusions they provide. The lightweight, portable, simple device perfectly suits the requirements of a zoo veterinary setting. In the world of zoo veterinary technicians, few things are constant. **Location changes, patients are drastically different with a wide range of needs, and many times the technicians must think quickly and improvise.** Even after many years in the zoo field, Frazier said she still comes across animals she has never worked with before. When every day looks different, zoo veterinary staff know they can rely on DripAssist.

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