



### **Morris Animal Foundation: Creating a Healthier Tomorrow for Animals**

Morris Animal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps animals enjoy longer, healthier lives. We advance health and welfare research for companion animals, horses and wildlife worldwide. Our vision is a healthier tomorrow for animals.

The Foundation was established in 1948 by Dr. Mark L. Morris Sr., a visionary veterinarian who believed there was a need for a foundation that solely addressed the health and welfare of animals. Today, Morris Animal Foundation is the world leader in funding the most groundbreaking veterinary research, which results in new ways to protect, treat and cure animals. The Foundation has been at the forefront of funding health advancements that have benefited the well-being of animals on every continent on earth.

We've funded nearly 2,000 studies, many of which have led to significant breakthroughs in diagnostics, treatments, preventions and cures, and all of which have advanced the state of knowledge specific to veterinary medicine. At any given time, Morris Animal Foundation is managing about 300 active studies. Each year, we also fund about 30 veterinary student scholar projects.

#### **Highlights of successes**

- By funding more than 150 canine cancer studies, Morris Animal Foundation has tackled the No. 1 killer of dogs and has helped veterinarians better detect and treat the disease.
- One funded study recently determined that inherited deficiencies in the ability to repair DNA may contribute to the development of lymphoma in Golden Retrievers. Another determined that a novel way to administer chemotherapy decreases side effects and is easier and less expensive to administer.
- Morris Animal Foundation funding helped establish a national canine tumor bank that gives veterinary and medical researchers high-quality samples for their research.
- Morris Animal Foundation funded preliminary work that led to the development of numerous vaccines, including those for parvovirus in dogs, leukemia in cats and Valley Fever in horses.

- A Foundation-funded study identified that high-protein diets help manage diabetes in cats and, in some cases, even reduce the need for insulin.
- With Morris Animal Foundation funding, researchers from the University of Illinois discovered that even a small increase in weight leads to insulin irregularity in cats, which could lead to diabetes. The findings suggest that weight control is imperative for feline health.
- Researchers learned that modifications in housing and care can decrease levels of feline upper respiratory infection (URI) in shelters. These infections are a top reason for euthanasia in shelters. Foundation-funded studies are changing the way cats are being housed in shelters and reducing the spread of URI.
- Foundation-funded studies provided important information that was used to sequence the equine genome, a critical tool in studying inherited disease in horses. In addition, the Equine Consortium for Genetic Research developed genetic tools that have helped scientists identify the causes of inherited diseases and led to a test to detect carriers of lavender foal syndrome, a fatal inherited disease of Arabian foals.
- Morris Animal Foundation funded many of the original pain management research studies, which have led to better ways to alleviate pain in dogs, cats, birds, horses and wildlife.
- Multiple studies have improved nutrition for birds, dogs, cats and horses.
- The Foundation established the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project in 1986 and was the sole funder for nearly 25 years. The project, now its own nonprofit organization, remains one of only a few conservation programs in the world to provide care and treatment to an endangered species in its natural habitat.
- A Foundation-funded study influenced legislation in Argentina when results showed that native ducks were being harmed by the amount of lead bullets contaminating their waters after each hunting season.
- Researchers from the San Diego Zoo, with funding from Morris Animal Foundation, identified a new, minimally invasive way to monitor gene expression associated with ovulation and pregnancy in pandas, which may increase the chances of reproduction in this endangered and beloved species.
- Multiple studies funded by the Foundation led to state legislation that increased protections for endangered California sea otters.
- Foundation-funded studies have led to assisted reproduction protocols, better nutrition and disease-transmission information for a multitude of endangered species, including cheetahs, frogs, pandas, elephants and sea otters.

*Create a healthier tomorrow for animals at [www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org](http://www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org).*