



Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar Program 2009

DUE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS: February 2, 2009

Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) is pleased to call for 2009 Veterinary Student Scholars (VSS) applications. This program provides veterinary students an opportunity to become involved in veterinary research targeted at enhancing the health and welfare of companion animals (dogs, cats, horses, and llama/alpaca) and wildlife or special species. Funding for this program comes from generous donor restricted gifts intended to introduce veterinary students to research that promotes animal health and welfare. Grants are not limited to US colleges. Veterinary Student Scholar awards are open to all students from an accredited college or school of veterinary medicine in their country who have completed at least one year of veterinary school.

Sponsor Information

MAF was established in 1948 by a creative and visionary veterinarian, Dr. Mark L. Morris, Sr., who believed that companion animals needed a foundation of their own, addressing their unique health and welfare issues. Because of this vision, today companion animals and wildlife are living longer, healthier lives. To date, MAF has funded nearly 1400 health studies at veterinary institutions around the world with funds exceeding \$51 million.

Summary of Program

The MAF VSS program will award \$4,000 stipends to students who wish to participate in clinical or basic veterinary research. Applicants must devote a minimum of 50% of their time to the project for the equivalent of a 10-12 week period. While most of these research projects are anticipated to occur during summer months, projects that occur at other times may also be considered for funding. Students must be in good academic standing and must be paired with a responsible mentor to be eligible. Students are not eligible if they are enrolled in another program that provides them with stipend support or are enrolled in a combined DVM, Ph.D. degree program. All research projects must comply with MAF's Health Study Guidelines, and have Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval if live animals (including client-owned) are involved in the project. (see #4 – application process)

Outstanding applicants should be identified by their institution's Veterinary Student Research program director, or equivalent, and applications should be entered electronically for final selection. Institutions may submit the three best applications they receive from students in the following areas: ***one application for a large companion animal research project, one application for a small companion animal research project, and one application for a wildlife/special species research project.*** Although not required, institutions are highly encouraged to match funds awarded by MAF. If there is a commitment from the institution to match funding, three more applications in the area large and small companion animal and wildlife/multiple species research may be submitted for a total of six VSS applicants. This is a dollar-for-dollar match, meaning that if a veterinary student proposal requests and is approved for \$4,000, MAF would award \$2,000 and the institution the remaining \$2,000. \$2,000 is also the minimum that can be matched. Review of all applications will be conducted by MAF staff and scientific advisors. Award recipients will be notified no later than March 1, 2008.

MAF will invite each VSS award recipient to attend a presentation of their research at the MAF Annual Meeting held in June of each year in Denver, Colorado. Airfare, hotel, and meals will be paid by MAF. VSS award recipients who attend and present their research thoroughly enjoy the experience, as it is a great opportunity to network with other animal researchers and veterinary students from across the world. Attendance to present VSS research projects is required, though circumstances may permit absence. The top three companion animal and top three wildlife student's poster presentations will receive an additional cash

award of \$5,000, \$2500, and \$1,000 each. These awards will be provided from the Joe Ballard Estate in honor of Joe Ballard, Jr., a former trustee of MAF. The winners of the Joe Ballard, Jr. awards will be chosen by the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board members.

MAF will promote successful applicants in media and communication publications, and is most happy to work with institutional public relations departments to optimize these messages.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Veterinary Student Research program director, or comparable position, may submit up to **three** application(s) - one in large companion animal research, one in small companion animal research, and one in wildlife/special species research, unless the institution commits to match, in which case a total of six applications may be submitted, 3 large and small companion animal and three wildlife. The following must be provided to MAF:

MATCHING COMPONENT:

To reiterate, if there is a commitment from the institution to match funding, three more applications in the area of large and small companion animal and wildlife/multiple species research may be submitted for a total of six VSS applicants. This is a dollar-for-dollar match, meaning that if a veterinary student proposal requests and is approved for \$4,000, MAF would award \$2,000 and the institution the remaining \$2,000. \$2,000 is also the minimum that can be matched.

Submissions must be made using our electronic application. The following is required in the application:

- ▶ **Project Summary:** (maximum 1500 words) Summary should describe the student's project, the student's role in the project, mentor's qualifications, and other research or program opportunities. The application must detail how work will promote companion animal or wildlife health and/or welfare. Thoroughness and diverse program opportunities such as orientation to scientific research, ethics, and appropriate use of animals in research will enhance the application's success. Other opportunities encouraged include: introduction to grant writing and publication, appropriate seminars, field trips, journal clubs, etc.
- ▶ A letter from the Associate Dean of Research providing (1) a statement of the student's good standing in the professional curriculum, (2) student's pre-professional GPA (3) student's professional GPA and (4) students present class ranking (attachment).
- ▶ All research projects must comply with MAF's Health Study Policy (http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/reports/sandbox/health_study_policy.pdf), and must:
 - a. All applicants must complete and attach the Foundation's Animal Involvement Justification guidelines: (http://www.morrisanimalfoundation.org/reports/sandbox/animal_involvement_justification07%282%29.doc)
 - b. **If funded**, all applicants must submit a copy of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) full application and current approval page for the project if live animals (including client-owned) are involved.
- ▶ Indirect costs will not be paid by MAF for this program.
- ▶ Students who are successful and receive a Veterinary Student Scholar stipend will not be eligible in subsequent years.
- ▶ Students must provide a final report for the project one month following the project's end date. An outline for the final report will be provided by MAF. All final reports from projects and posters for competition must be completed and submitted to MAF no later than one month after completion.

* * All applications must be submitted online * *