



Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar Program 2010

**APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM
Monday, November 2, 2009 – Friday, February 5, 2010**

* * All applications must be submitted online * *

Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) is pleased to call for 2010 Veterinary Student Scholar (VSS) applications. This program provides veterinary students and graduate students in a field relevant to animal health and welfare an opportunity to become involved in research that enhances the health and welfare of companion animals (dogs, cats, horses and llamas/alpacas) and wildlife or special species. Funding for this program comes from generous donor-restricted gifts intended to introduce graduate students to research that promotes animal health and welfare. Grants are not limited to U.S. colleges. VSS awards are open to all students from any accredited college, university or school of veterinary medicine in their country.

SPONSOR INFORMATION

MAF was established in 1948 by a creative and visionary veterinarian, Mark L. Morris Sr., who believed that companion animals needed a foundation of their own to address their unique health and welfare issues. Because of this vision, companion animals and wildlife today are living longer, healthier lives. To date, MAF has funded more than 1,500 health studies at institutions around the world with funds exceeding \$50 million.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The MAF VSS program awards stipends up to \$4,000 to *veterinary students or non-veterinary graduate students* who wish to participate in clinical or basic *animal health and/or welfare* research. Applicants must devote a minimum of 50 percent of their time to the project for the equivalent of a 10- to 12-week period. While most of these research projects are anticipated to occur during summer months, MAF will consider projects that occur at other times. Students must be nominated by their dean of research or equivalent, be in good academic standing and be paired with a responsible mentor to be eligible. Students enrolled in a combined DVM/PhD degree program or a PhD degree program are eligible, as long as they are not receiving concurrent stipend support at the time of their intended research. All research projects must comply with MAF's [Health Study Policy](#) and have Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval if live animals (including client-owned) are involved in the project. (See no. 4 – application process)

Outstanding applicants should be identified by their institution's research program director or equivalent, and applications must be submitted using MAF's online form. Institutions may submit the best application they receive from students in each of the following areas, for a total of no more than three applications: *one application for a large companion animal (horse/llama/alpaca) research project, one application for a small companion animal (dog/cat) research project and one application for a wildlife/special species (exotic 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 areas of large or 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, which is the minimum match. MAF staff and scientific advisers will review all applications. Award recipients will be notified no later than April 1, 2010.

Award recipients are required to present their work to MAF scientific advisory board members and trustees at one of three Foundation meetings (certain circumstances may permit absence). Small companion animal award recipients are invited to present their research at the MAF meeting held in June 2011 in Denver, Colorado.

Wildlife award recipients are invited to present their research in February 2011, location to be announced. Large animal award recipients are invited to present their research in October 2011, location to be announced. MAF pays for students' airfare, hotel and meals. VSS award recipients who attend and present their research thoroughly enjoy the experience, as it is a great opportunity to network with veterinary students and esteemed veterinary researchers from around the world. The top three student poster presentations in each area—large companion animal, small companion animal and wildlife—will receive a cash award of \$3,000, \$1,500 and \$500 each. These awards will be provided from the Joe Ballard estate in honor of Joe Ballard Jr., a former MAF trustee. The winners of the Ballard Awards will be chosen by the Foundation's scientific advisory board members.

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

MATCHING COMPONENT:

If the institution commits to match funding, three additional applications—one in each of the areas of large and small companion animal and wildlife 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, which is the minimum match.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Without a match, the 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. The following must be provided to MAF:

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

1. Completed electronic form (online application available November 1, 2009). Do not write in capital letters and make sure all the fields have been filled out. The information needed in the first two pages of the application pertains to personal contact information, organization information and information for your mentor(s).
2. **Attachments: Please attach all three (3) of the following to your online form. The full proposal (a, b and c below) must be converted to *one* PDF document that includes all attachments and does not exceed 3 MB. Proposals will not be accepted that are *not* attached to the online form.**

Project Summary: (This portion must be on double-spaced typed pages, 8.5 × 11-inch paper with ¾-inch margins, using an 11 point Times, Times New Roman or Arial font. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification.)

- a. **(3-page limit)** Summary should describe the student's project, the student's role in the project, the mentor's qualifications and other research or program opportunities. The application must detail how the 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. Please include references and/or citations in the project summary. Note: This must be completed by the student.
- b. 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 preprofessional GPA (3) student's professional GPA and (4) students current class ranking (attachment).
- c. A completed [Animal Involvement Justification](#) form. All projects, regardless of live animal involvement, must complete this form.

- d. **Note: 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.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- 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.

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