

Types of Traditional Awards made by Morris Animal Foundation

Established Investigator: These awards are for seasoned researchers with a published track record in research.

First Award: The goal of our First Award Grant program is to offer new veterinary and/or doctoral (PhD) investigators opportunities early in their career by: 1) providing research funding for their ‘first’ research project as the principal investigator and 2) pairing them with a ‘seasoned’ researcher (MENTOR) to facilitate launching a successful, long-term, scientific career in advancing companion animal and wildlife health.

The applicant must be post-DVM, post-PhD and/or post–specialty board certified. Applicant must have a postdoctoral career-appointment/faculty-equivalent position (faculty member just starting out) in a university, accredited zoo or conservation organization. Applicant must provide a letter documenting his or her position from the institution’s dean, department head or equivalent. Applicant must *not* have received previous funding as a principal investigator for more than \$20,000 for any single, extramural award. Previous role as a co-investigator is acceptable. **Residents are not eligible for this award.**

Fellowship Training: The goal of our Fellowship Training Grant is to provide salary support for training opportunities that will produce biomedical scientists (veterinarian and/or PhD) committed to a career in companion animal and/or wildlife research. Applicants are paired with ‘seasoned’ researcher (MENTOR) for this award.

Applicants with a DVM or PhD are preferred, but exceptional predoctoral students will be considered. The Fellow cannot have completed more than two (2) years of full-time postdoctoral research training. Fellows must provide a letter from their department chair or dean of research that documents the applicant’s appointment as a full-time graduate student or postdoctoral research associate. Successful candidates must devote at least 90 percent of their time to the funded research. Applications for support of training positions with clinical service requirements will not be considered. **Applicants are not eligible to activate this award while in a residency.**

Pilot Study: The goal of this program is to provide timely funding for innovative ideas to speed up discovery and advance the Foundation’s mission. Preliminary data are not required to successfully compete for an MAF pilot-study grant. Pilot studies must meet the following criteria:

- The budget cannot exceed \$10,800 (\$10,000 plus 8 percent for indirect costs)
- The duration of the study cannot exceed one year.
- All investigators are eligible to apply. An investigator can serve as principal investigator (PI) on only ONE (1) MAF pilot study per year.
- The PI on an MAF pilot study does not need to have full-time faculty status at his or her institution and residents are eligible to apply for this award.

Pilot study proposals are evaluated based on scientific merit, relevance to MAF’s mission, and innovativeness of the idea or approach.