

## VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLAR PROGRAM



### PROGRAM SUMMARY:

The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholars program is a competitive program that provides veterinary students the opportunity to become involved in mentored research that advances the health and/or welfare of companion animals (dogs, cats, horses, llamas/alpacas and companion exotics) and wildlife. The Veterinary Student Scholars program awards stipends up to \$5,000 to veterinary students who are selected by their institution to participate in clinical or basic animal health research.

Morris Animal Foundation is committed to training the next generation of veterinary researchers. As competition will be very strong for these awards, each institution is encouraged to select and submit the strongest student project based on development of veterinary research skills, scientific merit, impact on animal health, and adherence to Morris Animal Foundation's guidelines and mission.

### QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT:

- The program is open to currently enrolled veterinary students in good standing from any AVMA-accredited US or international college, university or school of veterinary medicine.
- Each institution may select and submit only one student project proposal per year, and submissions must be made online by the academic institution for review by Morris Animal Foundation.
- Students must devote a minimum of 50 percent of their time to the project for the equivalent of a 10- to 12-week period over the summer.
- Students enrolled in a combined DVM/PhD degree program are not eligible for this program.
- Students who receive a Veterinary Student Scholars Program stipend will not be eligible in subsequent years.

### VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLAR CRITERIA:

- This is a student research grant application and therefore needs to be prepared and written by the student.
- Veterinary Student Scholar awards are stipends and funds awarded are for the sole purpose of supporting the student during the research project. Funds are NOT eligible to be used for project expenses (including travel, publication costs, etc.) or indirect costs.
- If live animals (including client-owned animals) are involved in the project, the institution must provide assurance that the research project complies with [Morris Animal Foundation's Health Study Policy for Animals Involved in Research](#) and has Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) approval.
  - **Please note:** All projects that involve animal use (including from previously collected samples) will be reviewed by MAF's Animal Welfare Advisory Board (AWAB). Studies that require invasive procedures, induction of disease, or euthanasia may experience significant delays in contracting during this review.
- Students must submit a final report at the end of the project. Morris Animal Foundation will provide an outline for the final report.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

MAF grant applications have two components: an online form and a full proposal attachment. Both components of a complete application **must be received by 11:59 PM EST** on the designated due date. To submit an application, please complete the following:

1. **Online form** with contact information for the student and mentor(s). Do not write in all capital letters and please be sure all fields are filled out completely.
2. **Full proposal document** uploaded to the online form. The full proposal must be converted to a single PDF document that includes all letters and attachments and does not exceed 5 MB. The last page of the online application form will prompt you to upload the full proposal. Full proposal should include:
  - a. **Title page** (one-page limit): Name, institution, and email address of student and mentor(s)
  - b. **Project Summary** (3-page limit; single spaced; ¾-inch margins; 11-point Times, Times New Roman or Arial font). **This section must be written by the student.** The summary should:
    - Describe the project and the experimental approach intended to meet the objectives
    - Describe how the project will advance animal health
    - Describe your specific role in the project and what veterinary research skills you expect to learn
    - Describe your career vision and how this award will assist in progress toward your goals
    - Demonstrate that there are diverse program opportunities, such as orientation to scientific research, ethics and appropriate use of animals in research, introduction to grant writing and publication, seminars, field trips, journal clubs, etc.
    - Include references and/or citations in the project summary
  - c. **Student Biosketch** (2-page limit): Include your name, position/role on the project, education/training (degrees, institution, year of graduation, field of study), previous positions, research experience, and honors.
  - d. **Institutional Letter**: A letter from the institution providing a statement of the student's good standing in the professional curriculum.
  - e. **Mentor Letter** (2-page limit): The mentor letter should:
    - Address the student's accomplishments, perceived strengths, motivation, academic abilities and potential as a future veterinary researcher
    - Describe the study and the student's specific role in the study, including specific skills that will be learned
    - Describe your current relationship with the student and describe the mentoring and training plan during the project
    - Describe the research environment with regards to mentor qualifications, facilities, laboratory space, field research, etc.
  - f. **Animal Involvement Justification Form**: This form must be completed for all projects, regardless of whether live animals are involved. For studies involving live animals, indicate the status of IACUC approval. Morris Animal Foundation may request a copy of the IACUC protocol and approval documents. **Humane treatment of animals is of great importance to MAF and will be reviewed closely. Proposals not adhering to MAF's Health Study Animal Involvement Policy will be rejected.**