Position Title: Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Canine Epidemiology

Department: Scientific Programs

Reports To: Staff Epidemiologist

About Morris Animal Foundation:

Morris Animal Foundation is the oldest and largest non-profit source of funding for science that improves the lives of animals. Established in 1948 by Dr. Mark Morris, DVM, the Foundation has funded over 2000 studies and committed over $118M to research benefitting companion animals and wildlife. Based in Denver, Colorado, our staff of 35 professionals manages approximately 250 studies at any given time, including the Canine Lifetime Health Project, the largest and most far-reaching study run to date in veterinary medicine. Each year, over $7M of new research funding is committed through working practices that ensure only the most scientifically robust and impactful studies are supported. Building on this impressive and solid history, the Foundation is entering a new era. We believe with the increasing recognition of the vital role animals' play in the lives of humans, extraordinary growth of our mission is not only possible, but imperative. There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, and we are focused on scalable and sustainable growth of revenues and programs to meet the need.

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study:

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study (GRLS) is a longitudinal study of approximately 3,000 Golden Retrievers, in which detailed information (including medical, lifestyle and environmental data) and biological samples are routinely collected throughout the life of each dog. Launched in 2012, the goal of this study is to discover new insights into the causes and risk factors for a variety of disorders commonly found in Golden Retrievers and other breeds of dogs.

Position Summary:

The successful candidate will join the Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study (http://caninelifetimehealth.org/) and Scientific Programs teams and will be responsible for data review and analysis for this groundbreaking study, with a focus on scientific publication The successful candidate will be energetic with a desire to make a significant, lasting impact on the health of animals around the world and to help drive the Foundation's success as an animal health research institute. They will thrive on asking pertinent animal health questions, analyzing lifetime health and environmental data that include clinical and anatomic pathology and genomics, and identifying associations between environmental, dietary, lifestyle and activity risk factors in canine cancer and other important diseases.

The candidate will receive active mentorship from the scientific staff at Morris Animal Foundation and will learn to use the epidemiological tools necessary to design, execute, and analyze data from multiple large-scale cohort studies (both the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study and Dogslife). In addition, the candidate will have opportunities to observe Morris Animal Foundation's panels of subject matter experts deliberate research proposals from scientists researching canine, feline, equine, camelid, and wildlife health.

It is anticipated that this fellowship will last 18 months and will be based in Denver, Colorado at the Morris Animal Foundation headquarters. This fellowship aligns with Morris Animal Foundation's commitment to train the next generation of animal health scientists.

Position Description:

During their 18 months the candidate will have the following expected trajectory:

1. Complete a short, initial assigned project using GRLS data.
2. Develop and institute data cleaning and management protocols to ensure that data from the studies described above can be compared and analyzed for important health outcomes.
3. Independently develop and write a research proposal to answer an important health question using the data from GRLS and Dogslife and submit it to a panel of internal reviewers from Morris Animal Foundation and Dogslife. This will include re-submission if necessary.
4. For the accepted research proposal appropriately analyze the data, submit and present one research abstract at a scientific meeting, and prepare a manuscript suitable for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Position Requirements:

The successful candidate will have a strong background in biology (which may include a DVM) and be a recent graduate with an advanced research degree (MS or PhD) from an accredited institution in a field such as epidemiology, biostatistics, or bioinformatics, will have experience with a statistical programming language (Eg: sas or r) and will be legally authorized to work in the United States on a full-time basis. The candidate will be a positive, high-energy individual, who is optimistic and has a demonstrated ability to work effectively in a team.

Preferred Qualifications:

Demonstrated experience performing research with large, comprehensive data sets, integrating environmental, biological, medical, and genomics data to address study questions and generate testable hypotheses and associations for research to advance animal health are required. The Foundation's programs span the entire spectrum of species and research topics.

How to Apply:

Interested candidates should submit a CV, a letter of intent that summarizes their research interests and how this position will help them develop those interests, unofficial graduate level transcripts and a letter of recommendation from a mentor via email to Lisa Whipple, HR Manager, lwhipple@morrisanimalfoundation.org. Please list "Research Fellow" in the subject line of your email. **Incomplete and/or inaccurate applications will not be considered.**