

DONOR-INSPIRED GRANT PROPOSAL

Equine Behavior Relating to Health and Welfare

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The mission of Morris Animal Foundation is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. This request for proposals is part of our Donor-Inspired Study program. This program allows individual donors to directly support a research topic they have a passion for, and for which there is a pressing need.

This grant is being funded by Dr. Wendy Koch, who has supported Morris Animal Foundation for nearly 30 years, making her first gift to support animal health studies in 1991. Dr. Koch was born loving horses. She became interested in animal behavior at an early age, pursuing her undergraduate studies in that field. Dr. Koch qualified as a veterinarian in 1981 and began a career in animal welfare with the federal government in 1990. She became board-certified in animal welfare in 2016. Dr. Koch has closely followed equine behavior and welfare research and regretted that specific funding available in these fields has been minimal. Working with Morris Animal Foundation, she decided to create such a fund with this focus.

We are pleased to announce we are accepting pilot proposals for the study of equine behavior as it relates to preventing or improving important health or welfare issues.

- Pilot study proposals should be aimed at generating preliminary data to prove the viability of a novel new approach or idea.
- The project may involve domesticated or wild horses.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT

- All investigators are eligible to apply.
- Competitive applicants will have a previous record of research and publication in equine behavioral science.

DONOR FUND CRITERIA

- **Mission Adherence:** Projects must advance the science of equine behavior as it relates to health and/or welfare issues. Projects oriented toward human health or that of other animal species, including equids other than horses, do not fall within Morris Animal Foundation's mission for this request for proposals and will not be accepted.
- **Application Limits:** Morris Animal Foundation permits a maximum of one application to this fund as Principal Investigator. Proposals cannot be resubmitted through any other Morris Animal Foundation funding opportunity.
- **Resubmission:** Declined proposals cannot be resubmitted.
- **Budget:** The budget cannot exceed \$10,000.
- **Duration:** Maximum study duration is one year.
- **Preliminary Data:** Preliminary data is not required but should be included if both available and useful for the application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

As of November 2019, Morris Animal Foundation has begun using a new grant application and management software called Fluxx. All past, current and new grant applicants will need to create a new account to access past grant information and submit new applications. Visit maf.fluxx.io to create your account and submit an application.

Both the Principal Investigator and the individual submitting the application (if different from the Principal Investigator) must create an account before applying for funding. Your account must be reviewed and validated by Morris Animal Foundation, which may take up to two business days, so please plan to create an account several days prior to the allocated proposal deadline. For details on how to create an account and submit an application, view our [Fluxx-User-Guide](#).

Morris Animal Foundation grant applications have two components: an online form and a full proposal attachment. Applications must be received by 4:59 PM EST on the designated due date. To submit an application, please complete the following:

1. [Online Application](#) with contact information for the investigator(s), institution, and some key project information.
2. Full Proposal document, using the [proposal template](#), uploaded to the online application (see proposal guidelines below).

We recognize that we are all monitoring and being affected by the COVID-19 outbreak across the globe at the time of release of this request for proposals. When preparing your application, please be cognizant of any developments or potential impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the proposed work and take this into account in your study design. These considerations should be described where appropriate.

REVIEW PROCESS

1. Researchers submit grant proposals.
2. Proposals are reviewed internally for adherence to guidelines.
3. Proposals that pass the internal review are assigned to two Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) member reviewers. Proposals are reviewed and scored based on this [rubric](#).
4. Reviewers present evaluations to the full review committee at a virtual review meeting. Based on scores, the SAB recommends projects for funding.
5. All projects recommended for funding are reviewed by Morris Animal Foundation's Animal Welfare Advisory Board (AWAB) for adherence to our [Health Study Policy for Animals Involved in research](#).

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification.

1. Proposal Format:

- A. Proposals must be completed using [this template](#). **Please do not remove any headers or sections from this template. If any of the sections are not applicable, leave the header in your proposal and indicate this with "N/A". The order of the written proposal must follow the outline described below, including the use of outline number and headings provided in the template.**
- B. Single-spaced or greater with minimum 11-point font (Times New Roman or Arial font preferred) and ¾ inch margins.
- C. The full proposal must be converted to a single PDF document that includes all letters and attachments.
- D. Technical terminology should be defined on first usage; acronyms and abbreviations may be used subsequently.

2. Proposal Outline:

- A. **Abstract** (one-page limit): Abstracts should not contain information that identifies the investigators or any charts or graphics:
 - i. **Title:** Limit 150 characters, including spaces.
 - ii. **Rationale**
 - iii. **Hypothesis/Objectives**
 - iv. **Experimental Design and Methods**
 - v. **Pathways to Impact for Stakeholders**
 - vi. **Preliminary data:** Not required but may be included.
 - vii. **Expected Results**
 - viii. **Budget and Timeline:** Include budget and timeline for a one-year study.
 - ix. **Potential Impact for Equine Health and/or Welfare**
- B. **Title Page** (one-page limit): Name, institution, and email address of Principal Investigator and all co-investigators.
- C. **Study Proposal** (five-page limit including figures, tables and graphics):
 - i. **Hypothesis and Objectives:** Be precise and enumerate specific, testable hypotheses with realistic objectives to be met within the timeline and budget of the proposal.
 - ii. **Justification and Significance:** Clearly describe the background of the problem. Justify the need for the study and state the importance of expected findings.
 - iii. **Preliminary Data:** Succinctly describe any previous results by the investigator which support the proposed research. Preliminary data is not essential for Pilot Studies.
 - iv. **Experimental Methods and Design:** Describe the scientific approach, including the design, methodology, number of animals, treatments/interventions, sampling or other schedules, and potential pitfalls and alternative approaches. A thorough description of proposed data analysis methods must be included.
 - v. **Timeline:** Indicate the sequence and schedule of work as well as the duration of the project. Justify that the objectives can be completed in the given timeline. A maximum of one year is permitted. Include sufficient time to complete data analysis.
 - vi. **Expected Results:** Indicate expected results and your proposed plan for disseminating information generated by your work to scientific audiences, including peer-reviewed publications. Other stakeholders should be addressed in the impact plan.

- D. Impact Plan** (no page limit): Using the Impact Plan Form provided in the [proposal template](#), describe how this project will contribute to knowledge and potentially improve animal health and/or welfare in areas outside of the academic sphere. Morris Animal Foundation strongly encourages our research partners to design and conduct studies in ways that ensure the widest impact for our donor-sourced funding. Your impact plan should consider all important stakeholders, their potential involvement in the study itself, methods of communication, and areas in which awareness could be generated that might include horse owners or managers, industry, government, the economy, organizations or clubs, or the general public. For an example of a competitive impact plan, [click here](#). Plans for scientific publications and other academic endpoints should be included in the Expected Results section of the study proposal
- E. Sample Size Calculation** (no page limit): Describe the method of power analysis using the Sample Size Form provided within the [proposal template](#).
- F. Animal Involvement Justification Form** (no page limit): Include the required Animal Involvement Justification (AIJ) form, provided in the [proposal template](#), in ALL proposals, regardless of live animal involvement.
- G. Recombinant DNA/Biohazards** (no page limit): Applicants using recombinant DNA techniques must confirm that they have complied with National Institutes of Health guidelines for this technology and that they have approval from their institution's Biological Safety Committee to conduct the proposed research if it is funded. Also indicate any other potential biosafety concerns, including the use of radiation.
- H. Facilities and Equipment** (one-page limit): Availability of necessary facilities and equipment to complete the proposed study should be documented. Include any approved or pending permits to conduct the proposed work. Also any relevant permits must be included at the end of the proposal. If more than one institution is involved, a letter of collaboration from the outside institution(s) must be included.
- I. Cited References** (one-page limit): Include complete citations referenced numerically in the body of the proposal
- J. Budget** (one-page limit): Use the required budget form provided in the [proposal template](#). Include annual subtotals and grand totals in all applicable fields. All funds must be in U.S. dollars.
- i. Amount:** The budget cannot exceed \$10,000.
 - ii. Duration:** Maximum study duration is one year.
 - iii. Budget Limitations:**
 - 1. Equipment:** Requests for equipment purchases cannot exceed \$1,000.
 - 2. Tuition:** Morris Animal Foundation does not pay for tuition.
 - 3. Salary:**
 - a. Full-time positions:** Salary requests for applicants in full-time employment in academic or non-academic settings will not be approved.
 - b. Less than Full-Time Positions:** Salary requests for time spent on the project are permitted but must be clearly defined and include the percent appointment and other current salary support.
 - c. Technicians, Residents, Fellows and Students:** Salary requests are permitted but must be clearly defined and must include percent time commitment.
 - 4. Travel:** Requests for travel cannot exceed \$2,000 and should be clearly justified.
 - 5. Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs will not be approved.

- K. Itemized Budget Justification** (one-page limit): Specifically justify the cost of each item in the budget. Costs not justified will not be approved. The role and percent effort of each individual for whom salary funds are requested should be clearly defined.
- L. Current and Pending Support** (no page limit): Only include financial support (e.g., federal, nonfederal, commercial, institutional) currently available in support of the Principal Investigator and co-investigators' research programs that has overlap with the proposed project. Overlap, whether scientific, budgetary or commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted. Provide the following information for all current and pending support with overlap:
- i. Project ID**
 - ii. Funding Source**
 - iii. Project Title**
 - iv. Summary:** Brief summary of objectives and results to date.
 - v. Budget:** In the case of an active project, provide the budget. For a pending project, provide the proposed budget.
 - vi. Timeline:** In the case of an active grant, provide start date and projected end date. For a pending project, provide the anticipated start and end dates.
 - vii. Overlap:** Summarize any overlap with the proposed project regarding the science, budget, or committed effort.
- M. Biographical Data** (two-page limit per individual): For each Principal Investigator and co-investigator, provide the following information:
- i. Name**
 - ii. Position/Role** on this project.
 - iii. Current Position** (title, name, and address of institution).
 - iv. Education/Training** (degrees, institution, year of graduation, field of study).
 - v. Previous Positions and Honors** (include membership on any advisory committees).
 - vi. Peer-Reviewed Publications Relevant to this Proposal** (include titles, all authors, and complete reference).
- N. Letters of Support:** Include support letters from all collaborators, funders and commercial partners.