

# AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE FUND GRANT PROPOSAL

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The mission of Morris Animal Foundation is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. The Morris Animal Foundation Australian Wildlife Fund was established to support studies addressing the serious issues caused for Australia's native wildlife populations as a result of the intense and extensive wildfires experienced this fire season - and projected to occur again in future years. A forum for wildlife researchers was created to help determine the region's most pressing needs. Feedback from this forum and other researchers in Australia was used to determine the focus for this call for proposals.

**We are pleased to announce that we are accepting proposals aimed to address evidence-based management of wildfire injuries to native wildlife species in Australia.**

- Projects should address one or more phases of this process, that may include triage, acute care, longer-term sequela, and ultimate outcomes - inclusive of survival of released animals.
- All health effects are of interest including burns, smoke inhalation, secondary infections and systemic disease.
- Possible areas of work may include: clinical review/debrief of the 2019/2020 wildfire events; development of useful tools, techniques or technology; and projects to run in the next wildfire season (2020/2021).
- Proposals from collaborative, multi-regional research teams are strongly encouraged in order to maximize impact. Projects planned for the next wildfire season should be submitted by organizations servicing wide regions (which may include interstate) within which there is a high likelihood of significant caseloads occurring. This may include large established wildlife hospitals or organizations overseeing multiple triage centers.
- Proposals should demonstrate the potential for results to be widely utilized in future wildfire emergencies.

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.

## QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT

- The Principal Investigator must be based in Australia and employed in an already established position that extends over the period of the proposed research project.
- Competitive applicants will have a previous record of research and/or clinical experience with the Australian native wildlife species included in the proposal.

## AUSTRALIAN WILDLIFE FUND CRITERIA

- **Mission Adherence:** Projects must advance the science of Australian native wildlife health. Projects oriented toward human, agricultural animal, companion animal, and/or feral species health do not fall within Morris Animal Foundation's mission for this RFP 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 to this Fund.
- **Duration:** Maximum study duration is two years.

## 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](http://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 Applicant User Guide](#).**

Morris Animal Foundation Australian Wildlife Fund grant applications have two components: an online form and a full application attachment. Applications **must be received by 4:59 PM EST on the designated due date**.

To submit an application, complete the following:

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

## REVIEW PROCESS

All full proposals submitted to Morris Animal Foundation for the Australian Wildlife Fund go through the following review process:

1. Researchers submit grant proposal.
2. Proposals are reviewed internally for adherence to guidelines.
3. Proposals that pass the internal review are assigned to two Senior Scientific Advisory Board (SSAB) members. Reviewing and scoring is based on [this rubric](#).
4. Reviewers present evaluations at a virtual review meeting comprised of ten SSAB members. Based on scores, the SSAB 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 or questions 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. **Expected Results**
  - vi. **Budget and Timeline:** Include each year's total budget and project grand total.
  - vii. **Potential Impact for Australian native wildlife health relative to wildfires**
- 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. **Experimental Methods and Design:** Describe the experimental approach, including the design, methodology, number of animals, treatments, sampling schedules, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches for each objective. A thorough description of proposed data analysis methods must be included.
  - iv. **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 two years is permitted. Include sufficient time to complete data analysis.
  - v. **Expected Results:** Indicate expected data and other outputs, and the plan for disseminating information generated by this work to key stakeholders, who may include veterinarians, wildlife rehabilitators, scientists and lay audiences. Preference will be given to proposals with a clear pathway to widespread and rapid adoption of practices and/or methodology to improve wildlife health during and following wildfire events.
- D. **Sample Size Calculation** (no page limit): Describe the method of power analysis using the Sample Size Form provided within the [proposal template](#).
- E. **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.
- F. **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.
- G. **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 at the end of the proposal.
- H. **Cited References** (one-page limit): Include complete citations referenced numerically in the body of the proposal.

- I. **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:** A maximum amount has not been set. We ask that for this unique funding opportunity, applicants submit economical, focused projects with the understanding that the Foundation wishes to obtain maximum impact by supporting a diverse range of proposals.
  - ii. **Duration:** Maximum study duration is two years.
  - iii. **Budget Limitations:**
    1. **Equipment:** Requests for equipment purchases may not exceed \$5,000 (USD).
    2. **Tuition:** Morris Animal Foundation does not pay for tuition.
    3. **Salary:** Salary requests may not exceed \$50,000 total (USD) as an absolute maximum. Salary for any applicant already in a full-time position will not be approved.
    4. **Travel:** International travel costs will not be approved.
    5. **Indirect Costs:** Indirect costs will not be approved.
- J. **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. Involvement of students should be carefully considered, as the emphasis of this call is on rapid and widespread adoption of results – if students are to be involved this cannot be delayed for submission of theses etc.
- K. **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.
- L. **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, maximum of five)
- M. **Letters of Support:** Include support letters from all collaborators, funders and commercial partners. This should also include relevant permits.