

GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY SPECIAL CALL PROPOSAL



GENERAL INFORMATION:

The mission of Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. We are pleased to announce that we are accepting Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Special Call research proposals and are interested in collaborative projects that contribute to our understanding of the nutritional, environmental, lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer and other diseases. The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a groundbreaking longitudinal study comprised of owner and veterinarian reported data and samples including serum, whole blood, DNA, urine, feces, hair and toenails collected annually from our cohort of privately-owned dogs living throughout the lower 48 United States. The primary goal of the Study is to identify the incidence of and risk factors for osteosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, lymphoma and high grade mast cell tumors.

MAF grant applications **must be received by February 1, 2019 11:59 PM EST**. To apply, please complete the following:

- 1. Full Proposal Document** (see guidelines below) uploaded to the online form
 - a.** The full proposal must be converted to a single PDF document that includes all letters and attachments. This PDF must not exceed 5 MB.
 - b.** Please be sure that all documents in the PDF are legible.
 - c.** Once your application is submitted, it cannot be changed. Please review carefully before clicking "Submit."

PROPOSAL GUIDELINES:

- 1. Proposal Objectives:** Proposals should be designed to convince the reviewers that the proposed project will generate data to identify priorities for further study aimed at the main goals of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study; the investigator clearly understands the issue and has the expertise to conduct the study; and the approach is scientifically sound. Projects using animal models to approach a human health issue are not appropriate.
- 2. Application Limits:** MAF permits a maximum of one application as Principal Investigator per year. A proposal that is not approved for funding can be re-submitted a maximum of **two** times (three total submissions to MAF). Resubmissions should clearly address reviewer concerns.
- 3. Study Criteria:**
 - a. Duration:** The duration of the study cannot exceed two years.
 - b. Eligible Applicants:** All investigators are eligible to apply.
- 4. Proposal Format:**
 - a.** Proposals should be typed on 8.5 × 11 inch paper with a minimum of ¾ inch margins.
 - b.** Single-spaced or greater, using no smaller than an 11-point font (Times, Times New Roman or Arial font preferred).
 - c.** Page limits for each section must be strictly observed.
 - d.** The order of the written proposal should follow the outline described below, *including use of the outline numbering and headings*.
 - e.** If any of the questions are not applicable, indicate this with "N/A".

- f. Figures, tables and graphics must be included in the “Study Proposal” page limit. A questionnaire or survey, that is part of the project, can be included as an addendum if it is critical to the review of the proposal. Other addenda and extra information beyond the page limit will not be reviewed.
- g. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification.

5. Proposal Outline:

- I. **Title and Abstract** (one-page limit): This page should contain only the project title and scientific abstract, exactly as outlined below. Abstracts should not contain information that identifies the investigators and must use the following headings:
 1. **Title:** Limit 150 characters, including spaces. Do not use ‘all caps’.
 2. **Rationale:** Description of the problem and the need for the research being proposed.
 3. **Hypothesis/Objectives**
 4. **Experimental Design and Methods**
 5. **Preliminary Data** (if applicable)
 6. **Expected Results**
 7. **Potential Impact for Animal Health**

*Do not include any charts or graphics in the abstract.
- II. **Resubmission Summary** (three-page limit — excluding copy of the original review): If this proposal is a resubmission of a previously-reviewed full proposal, include a copy of the review and your responses to the reviewer’s comments. Please answer questions thoroughly and be aware that your resubmission might be reviewed by different reviewers than previous submissions.
- III. **Title Page** (one-page limit): Name, institution and email address of principal investigator and all co-investigators.
- IV. **Study Proposal** (five-page limit including the headings outlined below):
 1. **Hypothesis and Objectives:** Please be precise and enumerate specific, testable hypotheses with realistic objectives to be met within the timeline of the proposal.
 2. **Justification, Significance and Literature Review:** Clearly describe the background of the problem, justify the need for the study, and state the importance of expected findings to the field, the species/breed and to other stakeholders. The literature review should indicate current status of research in the area, including the investigator’s contributions. Technical terminology should be defined on first usage; acronyms and abbreviations may be used subsequently.
 3. **Preliminary Data:** Succinctly describe any previous results by the investigator which support the proposed research. If this project is a continuation/next phase of a previous or current MAF study, include grant ID number, title and a brief summary of the progress and/or final results. Preliminary data (if applicable) will substantially strengthen your proposal.
 4. **Experimental Methods and Design:**
 - Describe the experimental approach intended to meet each specific objective.
 - Detail the design, experimental methods, potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.
 - A thorough description of proposed data analysis methods, including sample size calculations, must be included. Describe the method of power analysis using the Power Calculation Form ([click here](#)) and include this completed form after this section. This form does not count towards the 5 page limit.

5. **Timeline:** Indicate the sequence and schedule of experiments as well as the duration of the project. A maximum of two years is permitted. All projects are subject to annual review, and approval of successive years is contingent upon approval of progress. Include sufficient time to complete data analysis for inclusion in the final report.
 6. **Expected Results:** Indicate expected results, your proposed plan for disseminating information generated by your work to the scientific and lay audience, and potential means of translating the results into practice.
 - V. **Recombinant DNA/Biohazards** (no page limit): Applicants using recombinant DNA techniques must confirm that they have complied with National Institutes of Health guidelines relative to 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 here any other potential biosafety concerns, including the use of radiation.
 - VI. **Facilities and Equipment** (one-page limit): Availability of necessary facilities and equipment to complete the proposed study should be documented. If more than one institution is involved, a letter of willingness to collaborate from the outside institution(s) must be included at the end of the proposal.
 - VII. **Cited References** (three-page limit): Include complete citations referenced numerically in the body of the proposal. List article titles and all authors, with principal investigator name in bold when applicable.
6. Provide brief evidence of a funding plan detailing how the project analysis and research will be paid for (one-page limit).
 7. **Current and Pending Support** (no page limit): Outline other financial support for principal investigator and co-investigators. Please include all financial support (e.g., federal, nonfederal, commercial, institutional) currently available in support of the investigator's research program. Overlap, whether scientific, budgetary or commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted.

Current and Pending Support Format:

 1. **Project Number:** If applicable, include a code, grant ID or other identifier for the project.
 2. **Source:** Identify the agency, institution, foundation or other organization providing support.
 3. **Title**
 4. **Summary:** Provide a brief statement of the overall objectives of the project, subproject or subcontract.
 5. **Annual Costs:** In the case of an active project, provide the current year's budget. For a pending project, provide the proposed budget for the entire project.
 6. **Overlap:** Summarize any potential overlap with the proposed project regarding the science, budget or committed effort.
 8. **Biographical Data** (two-page limit per individual): For each principal investigator and co-investigator, provide the following information:
 1. **Name**
 2. **Position/role on this project**
 3. **Current position** (title, name, and address of institution)
 4. **Education/training** (degrees, institution, year of graduation, field of study)
 5. **Previous positions and honors** (include membership on any advisory committees)
 6. **Selected peer-reviewed publications** (include titles, all authors, and complete reference)
 9. **Letters of Support:** Include support letters from all collaborators (individuals or organizations not named as co-investigators whose participation is crucial to the project's success).