GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY
PROPOSAL FOR USE OF BIOSPECIMENS

PROGRAM SUMMARY
The mission of Morris Animal Foundation is to bridge science and resources to advance the health of animals. We are pleased to announce that we are accepting proposals on a rolling basis for use of samples from the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study. Sample types available at this stage are serum, whole blood, DNA, urine, hair and toenails. Please note this call is for sample access only.

The Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a groundbreaking longitudinal study with outputs including owner- and veterinarian-reported data and samples 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. In addition to our primary goals, secondary goals include studies of all other cancers, and common major diseases including hypothyroidism, epilepsy, allergy disorders, hip dysplasia, congestive heart failure and renal failure. We are particularly interested in collaborative projects that leverage the longitudinal study design and contribute to our understanding of the nutritional, environmental, lifestyle and genetic risk factors for cancer and other diseases.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT
All investigators invited by Morris Animal Foundation are eligible to apply.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFETIME STUDY PROPOSAL FOR USE OF BIOSPECIMENS CRITERIA
- **Mission Adherence:** Projects should generate data to address the main goals for the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study and/or assist in identifying priorities for further study. Projects oriented toward human health and/or agricultural animal health do not fall within Morris Animal Foundation’s mission and will not be accepted.

- **Application Limits:** Morris Animal Foundation permits a maximum of one application per year as Principal Investigator to this program.

- **Resubmission:** A proposal that is not approved for resubmission will not be processed or reviewed again.

- **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 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 your allocated proposal deadline. For details on how to create an account and submit an application, view our Fluxx Applicant User Guide.

Morris Animal Foundation Golden Retriever Lifetime Study proposals have two components: An Online Project Inquiry Form and a Full Proposal. Once submitted, Online Project Inquiry Forms that are consistent with the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study mission and sample availability, will be invited to submit a Full Proposal. Full proposals must be received within 60 days of invitation to apply. To submit an application, complete the following:

- Online Application with contact information for the investigator(s), institution, and key project information.
- 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 Golden Retriever Lifetime Study go through the following review process:

1. An internal review is conducted for adherence to guidelines.
2. Proposals that pass the internal review are assigned to two Senior Scientific Advisory Board (SSAB) members. Reviewing and scoring is based on this rubric.
3. Reviewers present evaluations at a virtual review meeting of a panel including three other SSAB members. Based on scores, projects are recommended for approval, resubmission or rejection.

**PROPOSAL GUIDELINES**

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification. If any of the questions are not applicable, indicate this with “N/A”.

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 and does not exceed 5MB.
   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 and must use the following headings:
      
      i. **Title:** Limit 150 characters, including spaces.
      ii. **Rationale for Sample Use**
      iii. **Hypothesis/Objectives**
      iv. **Experimental Design and Methods**
      v. **Preliminary Data**
      vi. **Expected Results**
      vii. **Potential Impact for the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study**

   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): Please include the headings outlined below.
i. **Hypothesis and Objectives:** Be precise and enumerate specific, testable hypotheses with realistic objectives to be met within the timeline of the proposal.

ii. **Justification and Significance:** Describe the background of the problem concisely. Justify the need for use of the requested samples for this study, taking into account the sample score/value information provided by Morris Animal Foundation. Include an explanation of how the research question relates to primary and/or secondary endpoints of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study.

iii. **Preliminary Data:** Succinctly describe any previous results generated by the investigator(s) which support the proposed research, including any necessary validation work for the methodology proposed. This validation should specifically match the type of sample being requested. Preliminary data will substantially strengthen your proposal.

iv. **Experimental Methods and Design:** Describe the experimental approach, including the design, methodology, number of samples, potential pitfalls, and alternative approaches for each objective. A thorough description of proposed data analysis methods must be included.

v. **Timeline:** Indicate the sequence and schedule of experiments 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.

vi. **Expected Results:** Indicate expected data, your proposed plan for disseminating information generated by your work to the scientific and lay audience, and potential impact from translating results into practice.

D. **Sample Size Calculation** (no page limit): Describe the method of power analysis using the Sample Size Form provided within the proposal template.

E. **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.

F. **Facilities and Equipment** (half-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 collaboration from the outside institution(s) must be included at the end of the proposal.

G. **Cited References** (one-page limit): Include complete citations referenced numerically in the body of the proposal.

H. **Proof of Funding:** (one-page limit) Provide proof of secured funding detailing how the project research and analysis will be paid for. Commercial partners and the contributions (cash and in-kind) must be disclosed.

I. **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)

J. **Letters of Support:** Include support letters from all collaborators, funders and commercial partners.