



PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Data & Samples

PROGRAM SUMMARY

Morris Animal Foundation's Golden Retriever Lifetime Study is a groundbreaking, longitudinal study comprised of owner- and veterinarian-reported data as well as biological samples collected annually from a 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. 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.

Researchers from academia, nonprofit organizations and industry partners are invited to request access to Golden Retriever Lifetime Study data and samples for projects exploring critical questions in canine health. With data and samples collected annually over each dog's lifetime, [the Bette M. Morris Data Commons & Biorepository](#) supports a wide range of research opportunities. The Foundation is particularly interested in collaborative projects that leverage the longitudinal study design.

Request for Proposals (RFP) Key Information:

- This RFP solicits proposals for projects using Golden Retriever Lifetime Study data and samples.
- *This RFP does not include funding.*
- Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis throughout the calendar year through [Fluxx](#).
- Currently available samples include whole blood, serum, genomic DNA, FFPE blocks, tissue in RNAlater, urine, feces, hair clippings and nail clippings.
- More information about Study specimens and data can be found here: [Golden Retriever Lifetime Study RFP | Morris Animal Foundation](#).

Applicants **MUST** submit [this form](#) to datateam@morrisanimalfoundation.org **during the planning of your grant proposal** to ensure datasets and sample type(s) are available. Proposals including resource requests for which the PI has not coordinated ahead of time may be declined.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS

All applicants for this award must convince the scientific reviewers that they clearly understand the health problem, have sufficient expertise to conduct the study, are using a scientifically sound approach, and have considered the overall environmental impact of their research. Applicants must also demonstrate the funding source for processing the samples and/or data for which they are applying.

FOR APPLICANT QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT datateam@morrisanimalfoundation.org

- **Industry partner applicants** are asked to apply for data/samples using our [Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Partnership Request Form](#).
- **For academic or nonprofit institutions only**, there is no cost for the use of Golden Retriever Lifetime Study samples. We reserve the right to invoice applicants for sample shipping and retrieval fees.

SHIPPING:

For sample shipment to a destination in the 48 contiguous United States: Refer to the Sample Shipment Cost Estimates Table 1 below to determine the relevant shipping expense, including sample retrieval fee, shipping, and supplies. Include the total cost as a budget expense for your records.

For international shipments or shipments outside the contiguous 48 United States: Email datateam@morrisonanimalfoundation.org and indicate the types and numbers of samples you will be requesting and the shipment destination to receive an estimate. Include the total cost as a budget expense for your records.

Table 1. Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Sample Shipment Cost Estimates for the 48 Contiguous United States						
U.S. Shipping Destination	Number of Samples	Retrieval Fee Per Sample	Shipping Tubes <2ml*	Shipping Tubes >2ml†	Supplies Tubes <2ml*	Supplies Tubes >2ml†
East Coast	<100	\$1.80	\$150-250	\$300-400	\$50	\$60
East Coast	100-499	\$1.80	\$200-400	\$400-600	\$70	\$80
East Coast	500-1000	\$1.80	\$400-600	\$600-800	\$90	\$100
East Coast	>1000	\$1.80	\$600+	\$800+	\$110	\$120
Midwest	<100	\$1.80	\$250-350	\$500-600	\$70	\$80
Midwest	100-499	\$1.80	\$300-500	\$600-800	\$90	\$100
Midwest	500-1000	\$1.80	\$500-700	\$800-1000	\$110	\$120
Midwest	>1000	\$1.80	\$700+	\$1000+	\$130	\$140
West Coast	<100	\$1.80	\$350-450	\$700-800	\$90	\$100
West Coast	100-499	\$1.80	\$400-600	\$800-1000	\$110	\$120
West Coast	500-1000	\$1.80	\$600-800	\$1000-1200	\$130	\$140
West Coast	>1000	\$1.80	\$800+	\$1200+	\$150	\$160
* Sample tubes less than 2 ml in volume include whole blood, urine, serum, DNA, hair, nails, and extracted RNA from RNALater tissue samples						
† Sample tubes greater than 2 ml in volume include feces and tissue samples in RNALater						
Costs outlined are estimates and subject to change during the actual shipment process						

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications will be accepted in [Fluxx](#) on a rolling basis throughout the calendar year. The application process includes completion of the online form and proposal attachment. Both the PI and the individual submitting the application (if different from the PI) must create an account before applying for access to samples and/or data. *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 proposal submission**.* For details on how to create an account and submit an application, view our [Fluxx Applicant User Guide](#).

MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION POLICIES

Office of Foreign Assets (OFAC) Disclaimer: The Foundation is committed to full compliance with U.S laws and regulations establishing trade and economic sanctions. The Foundation will not fund any proposal where individuals, activities, or financial transactions occur within Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Syria, or the Crimea Region of the Ukraine. In addition, all individuals and entities involved in the proposal must not be sanctioned under U.S. trade and economic laws or regulations. You can learn more about sanctioned countries, entities, and individuals at this link.

Parachute Science: Projects that include international collaborations should address international scientific engagement and benefits and must include a named Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator, or Mentor in the country where the research will occur. The Foundation endeavors to achieve our objectives through ethical pathways and with the clear intention of inclusivity, diversity, and the elimination of the practice of parachute/colonial science.

Progress Reports: If you are the PI or a Co-PI on an active Morris Animal Foundation grant award, all progress reports and other contractual obligations must be current.

Failure to adhere to the above policies may result in your proposal being declined. For questions about Morris Animal Foundation Policies that are not answered within the proposal guidelines or [our FAQ page](#), contact datateam@morrisanimalfoundation.org.

REVIEW PROCESS

All proposals will undergo administrative, feasibility, and scientific review. Each proposal is assigned to two-three scientific reviewers and is ultimately scored according to [this rubric](#).

PROPOSAL FORMAT AND GUIDELINES

Carefully review and adhere to these proposal guidelines, including page lengths. Deviations from these guidelines may result in the rejection of your proposal.

Proposal Format: Use this [proposal template](#) to complete your proposal. Do not remove any headers or sections. Indicate “not applicable” if a section or question does not apply.

FOR APPLICANT QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT datateam@morrisanimalfoundation.org

The order of the research proposal must follow the order in the template. Proposals should be single-spaced or greater, using no smaller than Times New Roman 11-point font with a minimum of ¾ inch margins. Technical terminology should be defined on first usage; acronyms and abbreviations may be used subsequently. The complete proposal, including attachments, must be converted to a single PDF prior to submission.

Proposal Outline:

A. Lay Summary (2,000-character limit): This information may be used in communications with the public to showcase your project. Lay language should be used, and we require a Flesch Reading Ease Score of 50-70. Paste your lay language summary into this [free readability checker](#) to verify the reading level.

B. Title Page (1-page limit): Include the proposal title and name, institution and email address of the PI and all CIs.

C. Study Proposal (5-page limit including figures, tables and all sections i. - v. below): Note that “not applicable” is not a sufficient response in this section.

- i. **Background:** Include a brief literature summary and preliminary data (if applicable) that describes scientific significance and justifies the need for the proposed project/proof-of-concept project.
- ii. **Hypothesis and Objectives:** Be precise and enumerate specific, testable hypotheses with realistic objectives to be achieved within the timeline and budget of the proposal. Expand upon how the longitudinal nature of the Golden Retriever Lifetime Study can uniquely inform your research questions.
- iii. **Variables of Interest:** Clearly define all exposure variables, outcomes/diagnostic criteria, and covariates needed for analysis.
- iv. **Study Design and Methods:** Include the experimental design and methods for each objective. Data analysis methods must also be described. Expand on sampling strategy, study period, and eligibility criteria.
- v. **Anticipated Project Outcomes and Impact:** Expand on the anticipated project outcome(s); preliminary data for a proposal, publication, etc. Expand on potential scientific impact, including impact beyond this research field, and non-academic impact, including stakeholders and beneficiaries.

D. Sample Size Calculation (no page limit): Use the Sample Size Form in the proposal template as applicable.

E. Cited References (2-page limit): Include complete citations referenced numerically in the body of the proposal.

F. Timeline Summary (2-page limit): Use the project timeline to demonstrate how the research objectives will be completed in the timeframe requested. Include data analysis time and manuscript preparation time.

G. Biographical Data (2-page limit per person): Include a bio sketch for each PI and Co-Investigator with the following information. This might take the form of a resume/CV.

- i. Name, Role on this Project**
- ii. Current Position** (title, institutional affiliation, institutional address)
- iii. Education and Training** (degrees, institution, year completed, areas of emphasis)
- iv. Previous Positions, Honors, Awards, Committee Assignments**
- v. Selected Peer-reviewed Publications** (include titles, all authors and complete reference)

Once completed, convert word files to a PDF and combine all documents into a single PDF for upload.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THE SUBMISSION PROCESS?

Please contact datateam@morriscaninimalfoundation.org for assistance.

For more information regarding Golden Retriever Lifetime Study sample availability, visit [Golden Retriever Lifetime Study RFP | Morris Animal Foundation.](#)