VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLAR
APPLICATION GUIDELINES

PROGRAM SUMMARY
The Morris Animal Foundation Veterinary Student Scholar program is a competitive program that provides veterinary students the opportunity to become involved in mentored research that advances the health and/or welfare of dogs, cats, horses, llamas, alpacas or wildlife. The Veterinary Student Scholar program awards stipends up to $5,000 to veterinary students who are selected by their institution to participate in clinical or basic animal health research.

Morris Animal Foundation is committed to training the next generation of veterinary researchers. As competition will be very strong for these awards, each institution is encouraged to select and submit the strongest student project based on development of veterinary research skills, scientific merit, impact on animal health, and adherence to Morris Animal Foundation’s guidelines and mission.

QUALIFICATIONS OF APPLICANT
• Must be a currently enrolled veterinary student in good standing at any AVMA-accredited U.S. or international college, university or school of veterinary medicine.
  o Students enrolled in a combined DVM/PhD degree program are not eligible.
• Each institution may select and submit only one student project application per year.
• Must devote a minimum of 50% of their time to the project.
• Must not have previously received a Veterinary Student Scholar program stipend.
• If the student is not based in a country where a component of the research is to be conducted, then the proposal must have the support of a mentor who is based in-country.

VETERINARY STUDENT SCHOLAR CRITERIA
• Mission Adherence: Projects must advance the science of canine, feline, equine, llama, alpaca, or wildlife health. Projects oriented toward human health and agricultural animal health do not fall within Morris Animal Foundation’s mission and will not be accepted.
• Health Study Policy: Projects must adhere to Morris Animal Foundation’s Health Study Policy for Animals Involved in Research.
• Budget: The budget cannot exceed $5,000. Funds for this award are stipends and can be used solely to support the student during the research project. Funds are NOT eligible to be used for project expenses (including travel, publication costs, etc.) or indirect costs.
• Duration: Project duration is 10-12 weeks between the months of May and September.
  o International students whose academic year does not match this schedule should contact Morris Animal Foundation for an alternative project timeline.

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 student and the individual submitting the application (if different from the student) 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 proposal deadline. For
details on how to create an account and submit an application, view our Fluxx Applicant User Guide.

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

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

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in disqualification. The student must prepare the proposal independently, with mentor input.

1. **Proposal format:**
   
   A. Proposals must be completed using this template. Please do not remove any headlines or sections from this template. If there is information that does not apply to your proposal, leave those sections in your proposal and enter "Not Applicable". 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, using no smaller than Times New Roman 11-point font with minimum of 3/4 inch margins.
   
   C. Technical terminology should be defined on first usage; acronyms and abbreviations may be used subsequently.
   
   D. The proposal must be converted to a single PDF document.

2. **Proposal outline:**

   A. **Title page** (one-page limit): Name, institution, and email address of student and mentor(s)

   B. **Project Summary** (three-page limit). This section must be written by the student. Please include the headings outlined below:
      i. **Project Overview**: Describe the project and the experimental approach intended to meet the objectives.
      ii. **Potential Impact for Animal Health**: Describe how the project will advance animal health.
      iii. **Role**: Describe your specific role in the project and what veterinary research skills you expect to learn.
      iv. **Career Vision**: Describe your career vision and how this award will assist in progress toward your goals.
      v. **Program Opportunities**: Demonstrate that there are diverse program opportunities, such as orientation to scientific research, ethics and appropriate use of animals in research, introduction to grant writing and publication, seminars, field trips, journal clubs, etc.
      vi. **References**: Include references and/or citations in the project summary.
      vii. **Covid-19 Considerations**: Describe the impact that the pandemic may have on your role, the research project, etc. Include potential pitfalls and alternative approaches.

   C. **Animal Involvement Justification Form** (no page limit): Include the required Animal Involvement Justification form provided in the proposal template in ALL proposals, regardless of live animal involvement.

   D. **Institutional Letter**: A letter from the institution providing a statement of the student’s good standing in the professional curriculum.

   E. **Mentor Letter** (two-page limit per mentor): A letter is required and should:
      i. Address the student’s accomplishments, perceived strengths, motivation, academic abilities and potential as a future veterinary researcher.
      ii. Describe the study and the student’s specific role in the study, including specific skills that will be learned.
      iii. Describe your current relationship with the student and the mentoring and training plan for this
project.

iv. Describe the research environment with regards to mentor qualifications, facilities, laboratory space, field research, etc.

F. **Student Biosketch** (two-page limit): Include your name, position/role on the project, education/training (degrees, institution, year of graduation, field of study), previous positions, research experience, and honors.