AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE FOUNDATION
EQUINE RESEARCH PROGRAM

Program Contact:
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2014-2015 GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE

Proposal Deadline: December 1, 2013

General Research
The American Quarter Horse Association and American Quarter Horse Foundation encourage the submission of a diverse range of research projects related to the health, welfare and utility of the horse, and of importance to the horse owner and horse industry. Funding decisions will be based on scientific merit, clinical application and or potential benefit to the horse and horse industry.

"Refrigerator Fund" for Equine Head Trauma Research
Grant funding in the area of equine head trauma is also currently available. Targeted research directed at prevention, treatment, diagnostics and hospitalization or prognosis is desired, including evaluation, comparison, management and historical or retrospective analysis. Special consideration will be given to projects with a collaborative approach between departments or institutions.

AQHF Young Investigator Award for Equine Research
Specialized grant funding is currently available for MS or PhD level graduate students or DVM/VMD level residency interns. Lead investigators should be graduate or residency students whom are currently enrolled in a graduate sciences program. Research performed should be monitored by a graduate level advisor, major professor or senior faculty PhD or DVM/VMD mentor.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Proposals that do not conform to these written instructions <u>will not</u> be considered.
All proposals must use this application form and adhere to the format/layout described below. With exception to the title and budget pages, applications must be double spaced, using a minimum 12-point font with one-inch margins. All pages of the application, beginning with the title page, must be clearly numbered. Applications should be no more than 30 pages in length.

Please copy and paste existing text for proposal documentation into the formatted application form. Otherwise, please enter new text directly into the spaces provided. We also ask that applications/proposals be saved and uploaded including the university's name within the file or document name.

All completed applications must be submitted electronically by December 1, 2013. Proposals should be uploaded on http://services2.aqha.com/researchgrantappupload/. Upload instructions are provided on the web site. *Please make sure all programs used during the production of your proposal and or the application upload process are Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer compatible. Applications sized 2KB or larger should be split into more than one document so not to impede the upload process. Clearly label each of the application's uploaded documents.*

Based on the grant program's established criteria, the following items have been identified by the Equine Research Committee as undesirable proposal design objects and or requests: requests from private companies; research designated for trade name products; commercial product research, and use of ponies as a model in the research plan. Proposals containing these items will not be considered for grant funding.

General and or Head Trauma Research applicants: submitted proposals may only request funding for a one-year grant period. Proposals for projects of more than one year's duration must be re-submitted each year thereafter for recurrent consideration. If a project was awarded funding in the previous year, it will be evaluated on individual merit and is not guaranteed funding. The average grant request awarded is between $25,000 and $75,000.

Young Investigator Research applicants: proposals must be for a stand alone or pilot project with exceptionally focused scope and objectives in the field of equine research. Research should be completed within a one-year period with a viable outcome, endpoint and or publication expected upon completion of the project. Budgetary items may include graduate student tuition, lease and care of horses, consumable supplies, service contracts and publication costs. Funding requests should not exceed $20,000.

TITLE PAGE

A signed copy of the title/cover page should be scanned and uploaded with the completed application.

- *Title of Research Project:* The official title of the proposal project should be provided on the title page of the application.
- *Principal Investigator(s):* List all faculty members involved in the direction of the research within the application.

LAY SUMMARY

Include a **one page** brief summary of the project using lay terminology. The summary should contain justification for the project, what the project is trying to accomplish, how you plan to accomplish it, and how it applies to AQHA/AQHF and the horse industry.

LITERATURE REVIEW

A list of literature related to the summary and research plan should be provided separately. The number of pages available for this section is at the researcher's discretion, but is subject to the maximum proposal limit of 30 pages.

ANIMAL CARE AND USE FORM

A **one page** letter or memorandum from the institution's Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) indicating the project has been submitted for review is required for consideration of the project. Upon award of grant funding, final approval by the ACUC is required before funds may be disbursed by the Foundation.

RESEARCH PLAN

The research plan should include a timeline, justification, objectives, materials and methods, and expected outcome(s). Timelines may be submitted in narrative or graphical formats. This section **may not exceed 10 pages**. Proposals exceeding the page limit **will not** be reviewed.

REFERENCES

References specific to the project should be listed separately from the research plan. The number of pages available for this section is at the researcher's discretion, but is subject to the maximum proposal limit of 30 pages.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A glossary of terms, including associated acronyms, relevant to the research plan should be included in a separate section from the research plan. The number of pages available for this section is at the researcher's discretion, but is subject to the maximum proposal limit of 30 pages.

FACILITIES

Describe the facilities and equipment available to conduct the proposed research. A description of the facilities must not exceed **one page**.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Curriculum vitae for each faculty investigator involved in the research should be included with the application. Each CV should not exceed **two pages,** and should include the researcher's academic rank, education and training, a list of pertinent publications, and current funded research relevant to the proposal. Proposals exceeding this page limit **will not** be reviewed.

BUDGET

General and or Head Trauma Research applicants:

The average grant request awarded is between $25,000 and $75,000.

1. AQHA will not fund salary of principal investigator(s), indirect costs, the purchase of capital equipment or travel to scientific conferences.
2. AQHA does not pay overhead no matter how it may be defined.
3. *AQHA will fund salaries of additional personnel such as lab technicians, graduate students and student workers.
4. AQHA will fund consumable supplies, service contracts and publication costs.
5. AQHA will fund the purchase, lease and care of horses. If horses are purchased, salvage value must be documented and deducted from the cost.

6. *AQHA will pay graduate student tuition at the resident rate provided more than 50% of the student's time is being spent on the project and documentation accompanies the grant application (e.g. copy of tuition and fees for graduate students from the catalog of the University).
7. AQHA will pay for benefits based on time committed to the project. Documentation outlining the formula for determining fringe benefits and items included as fringe benefits must accompany the grant application.

Young Investigator Research applicants: budgetary items for research assistance may include graduate student tuition (see budget restriction #6 above), lease and care of horses, consumable supplies, service contracts and publication costs. Funding requests should not exceed $20,000.

**AQHA will pay for either graduate student's salary or tuition, but not both.*

FINAL REPORTS

Researchers submitting a current year project proposal must have all prior year project reports submitted by the proposal deadline. The final report should include completed research objectives and outcome(s), as well as the actual timeline of completion. Timelines may be submitted in narrative or graphical formats. For additional details, please refer to the executed equine research agreement on file with your institution's sponsored programs office.

NOTIFICATION OF AWARD

Approval notification will be mailed to the university's Office of Sponsored Programs beginning in April. Approved projects will be funded on the Foundation's fiscal year cycle of October 1 – September 30. A research agreement will either accompany the approved project notification packet or will be mailed directly to the university. Questions regarding the notification and or agreement process may be directed to our programs office.

MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PAGES ALLOWED: 30

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