



ESTABLISHED INVESTIGATOR AWARD An initiative of the AQHF Equine Research Program

The American Quarter Horse Foundation (AQHF) seeks to advance relevant basic and applied research that enhances the well-being of the American Quarter Horse. Our vision is to foster innovative equine research and education that leverages collaborative resources with exceptional scientists to address fundamental issues facing both the AQHA membership and the broader horse industry.

The AQHF Established Investigator Award supports the work of investigators and teams with a previous record of completed research and publication generating scientific innovation and promoting research collaboration within the various fields of equine research.

Who is Eligible?

- Investigators who have received more than \$50,000 of equine-specific extramural grant funding as a principal investigator.
- Investigators must be willing to provide mentorship on research and career development opportunities to foster future colleagues. This collaboration may be performed across species, departments and/or institutions.

Research Objectives

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 and/or endpoint. Project proposals should be developed with special attention to AQHF's identified areas of research interest and the following programmatic objectives:

- Enhance the well-being of the American Quarter Horse.
- Advance impactful research for practical application.
- Produce research innovation through basic and applied sciences.
- Promote findings to peers, clinicians, and industry stakeholders.
- Foster education and training of future researchers.
- Increase collaboration within the research industry.

Grant Funding

There is no limit to the budget request. However, we anticipate the average award to be \$75,000 or more. Grants are awarded annually for the funding period of October 1 through September 30. Please be advised of the following budgetary limitations:

- AQHF will not fund salary of principal investigator(s) or indirect costs such as facilities and administration costs, etc.

- Proposals may include the purchase of materials classified as capital equipment for up to \$5,000 of the proposed budget. Requests will require a detailed justification, including an explanation for funding procurement (i.e., matching funds available, etc.).
- AQHF will support the lease of equipment. Justification must be provided within the proposal regarding terms and length of service contracts.
- To increase graduate student participation within the proposed research, AQHF chooses to support graduate travel stipends in place of related overhead expenses. Stipends in the amount of \$1,500 for domestic travel or \$2,000 for international travel may be requested per student, with a maximum of \$5,000 available for student travel.
- AQHF will fund salaries of additional personnel such as lab technician(s) and student worker(s).
- AQHF will fund graduate student salary or 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 proposal (i.e., must include copy of tuition and fees for graduate students from the university catalog).
- AQHF will fund 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 proposal.
- AQHF will fund consumable supplies, service contracts and publication costs.
- AQHF will fund the purchase, lease, and care of horses. If horses are purchased, salvage value must be documented and deducted from the cost. Additional requirements regarding the use of client-owned horses are outlined within the AQHF Equine Research Program Guidelines.

Research Expectations

With programmatic objectives to promote research findings and foster education, graduate student travel stipends will be awarded with the expectation that upon completion of the research, student(s) have an abstract accepted and present their findings at scientific conference (i.e., AAEP Laminitis Symposium, Equine Science Society Symposium, Havemeyer Horse Genome Workshop, etc.) with appropriate acknowledgement of AQHF's support.

Deadline for submission of pre-proposals is November 1. To apply online, visit our web site at www.aqhfoundation.smapply.io. Questions may be directed to the American Quarter Horse Foundation at (806) 378-5021 or foundation@aqha.org.

The American Quarter Horse Foundation is the related philanthropic organization of the American Quarter Horse Association and is incorporated to encourage, by public contribution, the support of worthwhile educational, charitable and research projects of interest and benefit to the devotees of the American Quarter Horse.