



EMERGING RESEARCHER 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 Emerging Researcher Award supports new faculty working to establish their research career within the various fields of equine research.

Who is Eligible?

- Researcher who has received less than \$50,000 of equine-specific extramural grant funding as a principal investigator (eligible faculty should have a 6-month appointment or greater).
- Researcher must work in collaboration with an experienced researcher at associate level or greater willing to provide mentorship on research and career development. This collaboration may be performed across species, departments and/or institutions. Proposals should include a letter of support from mentor indicating their role within the project.
- Researcher is eligible until they receive extramural funding from outside granting agencies in excess of \$50,000.

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. Researchers must indicate how the obtained data will be used to further their research career. 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

Funding requests should not exceed \$30,000. 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 the service contract.
- 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 October 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) 378-5029 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.