



American Veterinary Medical Foundation

REPORT TO THE AVMA HOD – July 2022

The American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), founded in 1963, is the charitable arm of the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). The mission of the AVMF is to develop charitable resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

Through the generosity of donors, the Foundation has been able to help veterinarians help animals through a variety of education, veterinary charitable care, disaster relief, and research programs and activities.

EDUCATION

AVMF education support helps veterinary students who need financial assistance to continue their education and assists the AVMA in presenting continuing education programming so that all veterinarians have access to the most current learning and techniques to provide the best care for animals and pets.

Scholarships

By investing in the education of veterinary students, donors play a role in ensuring that future veterinarians have the skills and training necessary to treat our pets, safeguard our food supply, and protect public health.

For the 2021/22 academic year, the Foundation provided 156 scholarships for veterinary students attending accredited schools in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, and Europe. We are pleased to continue our partnership with Merck Animal Health, which has funded student scholarships over the past nine years. Merck will continue to fund this program for the 2022/23 academic year with \$300,000 representing fifty-four \$5,000 scholarships for students in North America and the Caribbean. In 2021/22, the Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowment supported 70 \$1,000 scholarships for outstanding students. Future Auxiliary scholarships will be supported from the income from this permanent endowment. Individuals who established named scholarships through bequests, the Arizona VMA and the Harold Wetterberg Foundation are also major donors to the AVMF Scholarship Program.

AVMF is fortunate to have a dedicated pool of approximately one hundred volunteers who lend their expertise in veterinary medicine to the review of scholarship applications.

Merck Veterinary Student Innovation Awards

Merck Animal Health, in partnership with the AVMF, launched the Veterinary Student Innovation Awards in 2018. This program recognizes an outstanding graduating senior at each of the AVMA accredited schools in the U.S. and Canada who demonstrates innovative and/or entrepreneurial creativity leading to a project or idea that impacts or inspires others within the veterinary profession. In

2022, 21 schools participated in the program. Each school chose an innovative student to receive a certificate of recognition and a \$500 award.

Merck AVMA Wellbeing Educator Train-the-Trainer Program

Merck Animal Health funding for this Program was received in December of 2019 with allocation starting in January of 2020 and continuing through Q2, 2022. The AVMA Wellbeing Educator Train-The-Trainer Program expands the pool of qualified individuals to meet the need for evidenced-based wellbeing programming. Wellbeing Educators will learn critical communication skills along with micro and macro level strategies for wellbeing promotion, while simultaneously learning how to train others in the use of the program. A technology enhancement, SHARE, was completed and implemented in Q4 of 2020. This allows for any course or certificate program on the AVMA Axon digital education platform to be shared and “endorsed” by the participant through social media or e-mail. Funding is managed through the AVMF while development and program direction and management is through the AVMA; both parties work in collaboration to promote and create access and reach for this valuable resource. An application was recently submitted for additional funding to expand and update the Train-the-Trainer and Workplace Wellbeing Certificate programs.

Achieving, Leading and Learning (ALL) for Students

Student Chapters of the AVMA use this funding to provide programming in four key areas: Leadership, Wellness, Professional Development, and Community Outreach. The AVMA, AVMA Administrative Trust, and SAVMA contribute to these programs with a combined donation each year.

VETERINARY CHARITABLE CARE

National Veterinary Charitable Care Grant Program

The new AVMF National Veterinary Charitable Care Grant Program provides AVMA member veterinary practitioners with a simple and effective way to offer low or no-cost, necessary veterinary services to the animals of clients facing personal hardships due to COVID-19 or domestic violence. Applicants may be reimbursed in full or in part for the cost of treatment using expense codes contained in the online application form.

Due to the desire to provide assistance for as many animals as possible with the funds available, there is a reimbursement cap of \$500 for grant requests related to COVID-19. For requests related to domestic violence, no cap is currently in place.

The AVMF program offers a solution that helps ensure that animals get the care they need and avoids forcing families to choose between financial stability and the health of their pets. The program also impacts the positive wellbeing for the veterinary community by allowing AVMA members to continue to provide high-quality veterinary medical care, regardless of an owner’s ability to pay. This program is supported by Merck Animal Health, the BI Cares Foundation, and other generous donors.

AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund®

The Veterinary Care Charitable Fund® is a program that AVMF launched in 2015 to provide veterinarians with a simple and effective way to offer charitable veterinary services to clients facing personal hardships as well as to support animals who are injured or rescued from abuse and neglect. The program is limited to enrolled practices. Since the AVMF is a public charity exempt from taxation under

section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, practice owners, employees, parent companies and the practice itself are prohibited from donating to their own fund.

DISASTER RELIEF

Disaster Relief and Reimbursement Grants

The AVMF provides two grant programs to help veterinarians and the animals they care for during times of disaster. Grants are available to support victims of hurricanes, floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, wildfires, and oil spills. Since September 2017, the AVMF has distributed more than \$946,000 in disaster relief and reimbursement grants to veterinarians, veterinary students, technicians, nurses, and assistants, as well as allied health organizations.

Disaster Reimbursement Grants for Veterinary Medical Care

The AVMF disaster reimbursement grants up to \$5,000 are for ensuring the emergency veterinary medical care of animal victims of disaster. AVMF reimburses for the costs of medical supplies, boarding, and transporting animal victims of disasters to safety.

(Note: Must be a licensed veterinarian and current member of AVMA)

Disaster Relief Grant for Veterinarians and Veterinary Students

The AVMF disaster relief grants up to \$2,000 are for assisting veterinarians and veterinary students with necessities due to a disaster. The grants would cover items such as clothing, temporary housing, transportation, and meals that were needed immediately following a disaster. **(Note:** Must be an individual who is a current student at, or a graduate of, a veterinary medical school accredited by the AVMA Council on Education, or a veterinarian that currently holds or formerly held a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in any U.S. state or territory)

AVMF support for Ukraine Disaster Relief

The AVMF has raised over \$372,000 in support for disaster relief efforts in Ukraine. Combined with a gift from Merck Animal Health that has been directed towards these efforts and an additional match from the AVMF, total support thus far is \$572,000.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Foundation has partnered with the Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation since 2017 to fund research grants with a focus on veterinary pharmacology. This funding supports research into new or currently approved medications for combatting diseases and conditions of companion and food animals as well as projects that ensure the safety of food products from treated livestock. These areas have historically been underfunded by traditional granting agencies. Two Veterinary Pharmacology Research Veterinary Pharmacology Research Grants were supported in 2021/22 by AVMF in partnership with the Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation:

Meghan Grobman, Auburn University

The impact of single-dose trazodone administration on endogenous adrenocorticotrophic hormone (eACTH) and serum cortisol concentrations in healthy dogs

Sarah Hamer, Texas A&M University

Assessing treatment efficacy of benznidazole for curing Trypanosoma cruzi infection and improving clinical outcome in client-owned, naturally-infected dogs with Chagas disease.

Other Research Activities being supported by AVMF include:

- *Early-Stage Investigator Awards*
- *Second Opportunity Summer Research Scholarships*
- *AVMF/EveryCat Health Foundation Research Award (formerly Winn Feline Foundation)*

We are deeply appreciative of the donors who help make these programs possible.

AVMF LEADERSHIP GUILD

The new AVMF Leadership Guild recognizes individuals and other partners who donate \$1,000 or more annually help the AVMF maintain and expand the scope of its charitable programs. Members of the AVMF Leadership Guild are major contributors to the Foundation who are committed to our mission to develop charitable resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health. The AVMF has seen tremendous growth of the Leadership Guild in 2022.

WEBSITES and SOCIAL MEDIA

The Foundation maintains two websites: www.AVMF.org for the Foundation and www.vccfund.org for the AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund.

The AVMF Facebook page has over 58,000 “followers,” which is an increase of 28% since the beginning of 2022.

MEETINGS and CONVENTIONS

The AVMF staff and volunteers participated in the AVMF exhibit booth at the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference and AVMA Convention.

OPERATIONS

The Foundation Board of Advisors (BOA) provides input, advice, and guidance to the AVMF Board of Directors in furtherance of the Foundation’s mission, activities, services, and programs. The BOA is a standing committee of the AVMF and reports to the AVMF Board of Directors. In 2022, a recommendation to change the name of the BOA to the AVMF Development Council was approved.

The AVMF Development Council is comprised of members of the AVMF Board of Directors, one of which is the director representing the Auxiliary to the AVMA; one voting member nominated by the Student American Veterinary Medical Association; and additional at-large, voting members. All the at-large members are AVMA members. All AVMF Development Council members are appointed by the Board of Directors.

The AVMF Development Council meets twice each calendar year, or as necessary to fulfill its duties. Up to two in-person meetings are authorized per year as needed. Virtual meetings take place on a bi-monthly basis.

AVMF Development Council

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