CALL FOR PROPOSALS
FY2016
COMPANION ANIMAL FUND RESEARCH GRANTS

On behalf of the SVM Research Committee, I am happy to announce that the school will have funds available in fiscal year 2014 to support competitive grants in the broad area of companion animal research. These grants are intended to support projects directly related to the health of companion animals, including studies of normal anatomy and physiology. Although they may serve as pilot projects for extramural grant applications, often these projects are clinically oriented with an identifiable endpoint.

These grants are made possible by generous donations to the Companion Animal Fund.

SUBMISSION:
To help streamline processing and review, applications must be submitted electronically as Adobe® PDF file attachments to e-mail. Applications should be sent to research@vetmed.wisc.edu no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, 16 October 2015. Proposals cannot be accepted after the deadline.

ELIGIBILITY:
All tenure track and clinical track faculty, and assistant, associate or full scientist track staff with paid appointments of 50% or more in an SVM department are eligible to apply. Clinical instructors may submit applications as principal investigators (PI) upon written recommendation of the department and by approval of the associate dean for research.

Although residents, graduate students and postdoctoral scientists are not eligible to submit applications as PIs, this grant program provides a good opportunity for a mentored experience in designing and writing research proposals. These grants can also serve as a useful mechanism to provide research opportunities for residents in clinical specialties and for veterinary medical students.

Given the limited availability of funds, only one application per PI will be accepted.

APPLICATION FORMAT: A maximum of 15 characters per inch (e.g., Times Roman 12 pt) with 1-inch margins. **Note: Sections B, C, D & E together may not exceed 4 pages.**

A. **Title Page:** Proposal title; name and rank of the PI and any co-investigators; and an abstract (250-word maximum) written in language understandable to a typical donor to the Companion Animal Fund. The abstract should briefly describe the potential benefit to companion animal
health. Indicate whether the project involves human subjects, animal subjects or biological hazards.

B. **Specific Objectives:** Hypothesis being tested or question being asked.

C. **Background and Significance:** Status of the field, importance of the problem, relevance of the proposed project. Why is the proposed research important?

D. **Preliminary Data:** Preliminary results are not required but may be helpful.

E. **Research Approach:** Experimental rationale and design; methods; data analysis and interpretation; alternative approaches. If the project involves clinical cases, provide evidence that the caseload is sufficient to allow the project to be completed within the proposed funding period.

F. **Bibliography:** Cite relevant literature including titles and inclusive page numbers (2 page max).

G. **Budget:** List and justify all costs for the proposed project, including staff salaries, student stipends, supplies, animal purchase and care, and other costs. Only travel costs required to carry out the research are permitted. Publication costs are not typically allowed. Salary support for the PI or for any faculty member is not allowed. Recent awards have ranged from $3,000 to $14,000, with an average total award of $7,500. In other words, good grantsmanship suggests you should limit the size of your request; but you should ask for enough money to make the project feasible.

H. **Project Period:** You may request support for any period of time up to 24 months (beginning July 2015).

I. **Investigators Role and Percent Effort:** For the PI and each co-investigator, specify the role in the project and indicate percent effort.

J. **Previous SVM Research Support:** If you have completed any SVM research grant within the past 4 years, include a brief (one page) summary of results, a list of abstracts presented and/or papers published, and extramural grant proposals or awards resulting or pending from that work. If you currently have support, provide a brief (one page or less) report of progress to date and briefly explain any substantial unencumbered budget amount.

K. **Other Support:** List all other grant support, including Graduate School support, available to the PI. For each grant give title, agency, funding (direct costs only), dates of support, and any degree of overlap with the proposal. List titles and agencies of any grant proposals on which you serve as PI or co-investigator that are pending or planned within the next 6 months, or for which you applied but were not approved for funding over the last 2 years.

**REVIEW PROCESS:**

Each proposal will be reviewed by an ad hoc reviewer from within the school and by a member of the SVM Research Committee, who will also present the application for consideration by the full committee. *When preparing your application, please keep in mind that reviewers may not be experts in your particular field. This is especially true when a proposal includes multiple investigators in the same field.*

Reviewers will be asked to critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and to comment on the following: relevance to the field and importance of the problem; originality and innovation of the proposed research; evaluation of preliminary data, if any (not required); experimental rationale and appropriateness of the methods; likelihood of accomplishing the objectives in the time available; adequacy of the percent effort of the PI and co-investigators; contribution to research training and experience of veterinary medical students, residents, graduate students and/or postdoctoral scientists; and assessment of progress or productivity on projects funded over the past 2 years. Reviewers will be asked to rate the proposal on a 5-point scale (1 = outstanding; 5 = not suitable for funding) in the following areas:
1. Scientific Merit; does the proposal address a significant problem and is the research proposed likely to advance knowledge in this area?

2. Innovation; is the proposed research novel or innovative? Why or why not?

3. Feasibility; is the approach feasible? Can it be completed in the proposed timeframe and if successful, is it likely to produce the results predicted?

4. Previous Award; if the PI has received prior award(s) from the Companion Animal Fund, have the funds been used effectively?

5. Overall Score; What is the Overall score you would assign to the proposal? How does your summary support this assessment?

Each application will receive 1 of 3 possible recommendations:

- Recommended for funding
- Recommended for funding upon satisfactory revision
- Not recommended for funding

All Principal Investigators will receive a copy of reviewers’ comments. Principal Investigators of applications recommended for funding upon satisfactory revision will be asked to submit a revised version of the application that addresses concerns raised by the reviewers by 4 pm Friday February 5, 2016.

Final funding decisions will be made by this office based upon the recommendation of the Research Committee. While based primarily on overall scientific merit, other factors including history of support and productivity on completed or ongoing SVM grants, promoting collaborative research, current extramural funding and academic rank of the PI, and the probability of generating extramural grant support for basic science applications, also will be considered. Because school resources are very limited, proposals from individuals who have substantial extramural support are less likely to be funded regardless of the scientific merit of the proposal.

AWARDS:
The Research Committee will make every effort to meet and review applications in a timely fashion, with funding decisions to be announced on or about 01 January 2016. Funding will begin 01 July 2016. Revised applications will be due on 06 February 2016.

Approvals for biological safety, human and/or animal subjects must be provided to SVM Business Services before an award can be activated.

A final narrative report summarizing the results of the project including any abstracts and publications resulting from the project is due 30 days following the end of the project period.

PREVIOUS AWARDS:

QUESTIONS: Contact Dale Bjorling by phone (3–4808) or e-mail (bjorling@wisc.edu).