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 resources to advance the science and practice of veterinary medicine to improve animal and human health.

GIFTS IN ACTION

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

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 $808,000 in disaster relief and reimbursement grants to veterinarians, veterinary students, technicians 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)

Together with AVMA, VCA Charities and donations from the general public via a challenge grant, AVMF responded to the Australian bushfires with over $223,000 in funding to the Australian Veterinary Association Benevolent Fund.
The COVID-19 pandemic created financial hardship for the veterinary community. As a result, AVMF received generous donations from Hills Pet Nutrition, Zoetis and NAVTA to fund over 400 grants of $500 each to veterinary technicians and assistants.

Another significant development is the receipt of a generous bequest of 1.6 million dollars over ten years to support AVMF’s disaster relief programs.

**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 2019/2020 academic year, the Foundation provided 118 scholarships for veterinary students in North America, the Caribbean, Latin/South America and Southeast Asia. We are pleased to continue our partnership with Merck Animal Health who has funded national and international student scholarships over the past six years. Merck will continue to fund this program for the 2020/21 academic year with $300,000. The Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowment supported 35 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 very fortunate to have a dedicated pool of 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. The COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges to managing this program in 2020, with schools conducting their award and commencement ceremonies on a virtual basis. Nevertheless, 23 schools participated in the program. Each chose an innovative student to receive a certificate of recognition and a $500 award.

**Merck AVMA Wellbeing Educator Train-the-Trainer Program**
Merck funding in the amount of $100,000 was received for this program in December of 2019 with an estimated allocation from 2020 through 2021. 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. Funding is managed through the AVMF while development and program direction and management is through the AVMA; both parties are working in collaboration and support to promote and create access and reach for this valuable resource.
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 of $287,000 in 2020.

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 combating 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.

The following research grants were supported in 2019/20:

**Veterinary Pharmacology Research Grant Recipient**
- Dr. Monique Pairis-Garcia, North Carolina State University, “Identifying practical pharmaceutical approaches to mitigate castration pain on commercial swine farms” - $29,992

**Veterinary Pharmacokinetic Research Grant**
- Dr. Kara Lascola, Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, “Evaluation of the pharmacokinetics of nebulized glycopyrrolate administered to asthmatic horses” - $7,371

A new research grant will be offered in 2020 through AVMF’s partnership with VPRF and the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology. Applicants for the American College of Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Resident Grants must be current candidates that are enrolled in an approved Standard or Alternate ACVCP Training Program. Submitted proposals may address either Veterinary Pharmacokinetic or Pharmacology studies and comply with the existing criteria and other requirements for the AVMF/VPRF grant program.

Other Research Activities being supported by AVMF include:

**Early Stage Investigator Awards**
- Three recipients were announced at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium in 2019. Selection is based on significant achievement in veterinary medical/biomedical research.

**Second Opportunity Research Scholarships**
- Five students were awarded with $5,000 each to assist with expenses related to conducting a 10+ week summer research project experience. Each has indicated that they will still be performing a summer research project, with perhaps some pandemic-driven modifications to their original plans.
AVMF/Winn Feline Foundation Research Award

- Dr. Jessica Quimby of The Ohio State University was the 2019 recipient of this award presented at the Boehringer Ingelheim Veterinary Scholars Symposium. Dr. John Kruger is the 2020 recipient.

AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund®

The AVMF Veterinary Care Charitable Fund is a program created to provide veterinarians with a simple and effective way to offer charitable veterinary services to clients facing personal hardships, as well to help animals that have been injured or rescued from abuse and neglect.

Through this program, donors make gifts to the AVMF in support of the charitable work of the practices enrolled. AVMA member veterinarians can then request a grant from those donated funds so they may be reimbursed for the charitable veterinary services they provide.

Since the beginning of June 2019 through the end of May 2020, AVMF has processed 879 grant requests amounting to $297,416.50 and representing 974 animals assisted. During this same time period, the AVMF has received a total of $517,006.57 in VCCF donations. As of mid-June 2020, the Foundation was tracking the donations for nearly 1,390 practices enrolled in the program from all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico. AVMF staff sends fundraising tips and sample emails for clients to the participating practices to assist with fundraising efforts.

Practices enrolled in the VCCF program are also eligible to apply for grant funding for their clients who are military veterans with dogs or services animals, thanks to two grants awarded to AVMF from the Harold Wetterberg Foundation.

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

Websites and Social Media


The AVMF Facebook page has 33,234 page “followers,” which is an increase of 8.1% since July 2019.

Meetings and Conventions

The AVMF staff and volunteers delivered presentations and worked the AVMF exhibit booth at the following events:

AVMA Veterinary Leadership Conference in Chicago, IL
AVMA Convention in Washington, DC
VMX in Orlando, FL
WVC in Las Vegas, NV

Foundation 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.
The BOA 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. Most of the at-large members are AVMA members. All BOA members are appointed by the Board of Directors.

At-large members are appointed for a term of three-years with a limit of two terms. Terms are staggered (1, 2, or 3 years) to reduce the likelihood that the term of more than one member will end at the same time. All members who serve the initial 1-year or two-year term will be eligible to serve subsequent 3-year terms.

The Board of Directors appointed the first Chair of the BOA for a one-year term. The BOA shall select its own Chair after the term of the first Chair expires. The BOA also selected its own Vice Chair. The Vice Chair assists the Chair, as directed, and serves as the BOA SAVMA Liaison to support the SAVMA BOA member by helping to coordinate student activities that promote greater understanding of AVMF programs and foster lifelong support.

The BOA meets twice each calendar year, or as necessary to fulfill its duties. Up to two in-person meetings are authorized per year as needed. Conference calls and virtual meetings take place on a monthly basis.

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