REPORT TO THE AVMA HOD – July 2018

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, service, disaster relief, advocacy, 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 or oil spills. Since September 2017, the AVMF has distributed more than $220,000 in disaster relief and reimbursement grants to veterinarians, veterinary students, and 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.

- **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 basic 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.

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 2017/2018 academic year, the Foundation provided 128 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 five years. Merck will continue to fund this program for the 2018/19 academic year with $300,000. The Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy
Endowment supported 66 scholarships for outstanding students. Future Auxiliary scholarships will be supported from the income from this permanent endowment. Individuals who established named scholarships through bequests and the Harold Wetterberg Foundation are also major donors to the AVMF Scholarship Program.

**New Merck Veterinary Student Innovation Awards**

Merck Animal Health, in partnership with the AVMF, launched the Veterinary Student Innovation Awards. 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. A certificate of recognition and $500 were awarded to 28 students.

**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 LIFE, AVMA PLIT, and SAVMA contribute to these programs for a combined donation of $337,000.

**Research Support**

The Foundation devotes its efforts to raising financial support for research projects that will help lead to improved prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of prevalent, life-threatening diseases in animals. The following research grants were supported in 2017.

- **Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation/AVMF Pharmacology Research Grant**
  - $30,000
  - Dr. Derek Foster, North Carolina State University
  - "Continuous sampling of the bovine udder by ultrafiltration to assess the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of intramammary ceftiofur"

- **Veterinary Pharmacology Research Foundation/AVMF Pharmacokinetic Research Grant**
  - $15,000
  - Dr. Duncan Lascelles, North Carolina State University
  - "The pharmacokinetics of gabapentin in cats by three routes of administration"

- **AVMF Research Grant for Pain Management in Dogs**
  - $25,000
  - Dr. Butch KuKanich, Kansas State University
  - "Development of an abuse resistant analgesic for dogs with moderate to severe pain"

- **Young Investigator Awards** – Three recipients will be announced at the National Veterinary Scholars Symposium
- **Second Opportunity Research Scholarships** – Five recipients of $6,000 each
- **AVMF/Winn Feline Foundation Research Award** – One recipient of $2,500
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 as a means 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.

As of the end of May 2018, the Foundation was tracking the donations for nearly 1,100 practices enrolled in the program from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. AVMF staff sends fundraising tips and sample emails for clients to the participating practices to assist with fundraising efforts.

Websites and Social Media

The AVMF Facebook page has 28,253 total page “likes,” which shows an increase of 9% since July 2017.

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
VMX in Orlando, FL
WVC in Las Vegas, NV
SAVMA Symposium in Philadelphia, PA

We are deeply appreciative of the donors who help make these programs possible. Names of donors who made gifts of $250+ between June 1, 2017 and May 31, 2018 are recognized on donor boards at the AVMA Annual Convention.
FOUNDATION OPERATIONS
The Foundation Board is comprised of veterinary and non-veterinary representatives from the AVMA Executive Board, AVMA HOD and the Auxiliary to the AVMA. Additionally, volunteers serve on the following committees: Executive, Grants/Awards, Finance, Audit, Strategic Management, Disaster Relief/Reimbursement, Committee on the Board, and Partners for Healthy Pets.

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