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# Funding Opportunities

Grants & Funding

## Addressing Evidence-Based Health Benefits of Human-Animal Interaction

**Deadline: February 16, 2023 at 11:59pm Eastern**

The vision of the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) is for the human-animal bond to be universally embraced as an essential element of human wellness. To that end, HABRI works to establish the vital role of the human-animal bond in the health and well-being of individuals, families, cultures and communities.

HABRI is issuing a call for research proposals from institutions and organizations across the globe to investigate the health outcomes of pet ownership and/or animal-assisted interventions (AAI) or therapy, both for the people and the animals involved. Proposals should have a strong theoretical framework and focus on innovative approaches to studying the health effects of companion animals on humans within the following broad categories:

- Child Health and Development
- Healthy Aging
- Mental & Physical Health and Wellness

In an effort to help address larger societal challenges, proposals that have potential to impact current public health crises or issues at the forefront of public concern are welcomed. Topics include (but are not limited to) impacts on diverse and under-represented populations, social isolation and loneliness, suicide prevention, addiction, trauma and/or post-traumatic stress, obesity, and heart health.

Evaluation will be based on rigor of study design and methods, capabilities of investigators, adequacy of facilities, cost-effective yet realistic budget, potential for significant impact on future practices related to the understanding or treatment of mental and physical health conditions, and for potential impact and contribution to the scientific field of human-animal interaction (HAI). Adherence to the highest standards of human and animal care and welfare is essential, and studies that also measure the welfare of the animals involved are of interest. All funded studies must undergo Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review and approval when necessary. No invasive procedures will be funded.

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### APPLICATION MATERIALS

[HABRI 2023 Request for Proposals](#)
[HABRI 2023 PDF Instructions](#)
[HABRI 2023 Proposal Guidelines](#)
[HABRI 2023 Budget Form](#)
[HABRI 2023 Scoring Rubric](#)
[HABRI 2023 Power Calculation Form](#)

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[HABRI RFP FAQ](#)
[Sample Application – Sections I – XI only](#)

### GRANT REPORT FORMS

[HABRI Mid-Year Progress Report Form](#)
[HABRI Year-End Report Form](#)
[HABRI Final Report Form](#)
[HABRI Request for Study Change Form](#)
[HABRI Request for Study Change Form – COVID-19 IMPACT](#)
[HABRI Funding Acknowledgment](#)

### THE PET EFFECT

While HABRI is interested in studies that focus on the impacts of interactions with dogs, in the interest of further contributing to the scientific field of HAI, HABRI encourages studies that focus on interactions with other pet species, which may include (but are not limited to) cats and small animals (rabbits, guinea pigs, birds, and fish) and horses. HABRI is not interested in projects that study non-traditional pet species. If you have a question about whether a study involving a particular species would qualify for funding, please contact us.

HABRI does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, national origin, disability, military status, age, marital status, or parental status.

## Additional Funding Through Pet Partners

Pet Partners, the leading therapy animal organization in the United States, is partnering with HABRI with the mission of improving human health and well-being through the power of the human-animal bond. This partnership allows for additional funding for research to investigate the health, education, and wellness outcomes of animal-assisted interventions (AAI), both for the people and animals involved. Proposals focusing within these broad categories are specifically encouraged:

- Determining best practices for effective AAI. For example, dosage, handler training, treatment protocols, etc.
- Studies that support the empirical appreciation for how therapy animal welfare can be protected and enhanced
- The study of AAI in professional environments: AAT, AAE, etc.
- Investigations focusing on AAI with the non-canine species that are registered with Pet Partners: cats, horses, birds, pigs, llamas & alpacas, rabbits, rats, and guinea pigs
- Studies involving virtual adaptation of AAI and other [animal-related engagement](#) initiatives
- Cross-cultural experiences of the human-animal bond
- Studies focused on the impact of AAI on populations not currently represented in the literature. For example, AAI with diverse demographic, social economic, or population-based groups

To be eligible for this additional funding, investigators are encouraged to incorporate Pet Partners registered volunteer therapy animal teams into their proposed research. Pet Partners registered volunteer teams must meet [high standards](#) which support patient and public safety; outstanding animal welfare; and greater consistency for research purposes.

All of the guidelines, requirements, and deadlines associated with HABRI's 2023 RFP apply to this additional funding opportunity. Applicants must indicate that they are applying for this supplemental funding by following the instructions laid out in the Proposal Guidelines.

For more information about securing the participation of Pet Partners registered volunteer therapy animal teams for proposed research, please contact Dr. Taylor Chastain-Griffin at [taylorc@petpartners.org](mailto:taylorc@petpartners.org).

## To apply for a HABRI grant:

Prior to submitting a proposal, please review the following documents:

- [Proposal Guidelines](#)
- [Scoring Rubric](#)

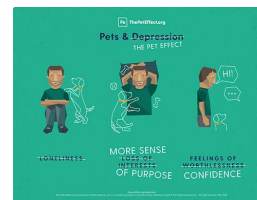
To apply for a HABRI grant, please send an email to [submissions@habri.org](mailto:submissions@habri.org). Please ensure the subject line of the email and PDF submission are both titled "HABRI 2023 Grant Proposal - Principal Investigator Last Name."

For proposals applying for supplemental funding available through Pet Partners, please send an email to [submissions@habri.org](mailto:submissions@habri.org). Please ensure the subject line of the email and PDF submission are both titled "HABRI/Pet Partners 2023 Grant Proposal - Principal Investigator Last Name."

## Application Review Process:

Proposals will be evaluated by an independent review board comprised of experts in the field of human-animal interaction.

Proposal submissions that do not meet the requirements of this request for proposals or the proposal guidelines will not qualify for consideration. Qualified proposals will first undergo an abstract review, where each proposal's abstract, which will be blinded by researcher and institution, is evaluated based on design, potential for impact, and potential for contribution to the field of HAI. Proposal submissions that advance to the next round may then receive a full review.



Did you know pets can help people with depression?

Learn more about The Pet Effect [here](#).

## FEATURED PARTNER



## Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Is HABRI funding available to international applicants working outside the United States?
  - Yes, international applicants from academic institutions and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. There are no additional governance requirements in order to meet IRB and IACUC requirements (institutional approvals suffice). All dollar amounts must be expressed in U.S. dollars.
2. Can you share the research projects that HABRI has funded in the past?
  - A full list of HABRI-funded projects can be found [here](#).
3. Does HABRI fund capital projects or programming?
  - No, HABRI does not fund capital projects nor does HABRI provide support for programs.
4. Is there a maximum budget for a HABRI grant proposal?
  - While there is no budget cap, HABRI awards an average of 5-6 projects each year with project costs averaging approximately \$45,000 per project and an average duration of about 20 months.

For a full list of FAQs, click [here](#).

## More Information:

For more information about HABRI, including currently funded research projects, please visit [www.habri.org](http://www.habri.org).

Please direct all inquiries about the application or award process to Matt Cryer at [mcryer@habri.org](mailto:mcryer@habri.org).

## External Funding Opportunities

### Waltham Petcare Science Institute Research Funding Call

Waltham Petcare Science Institute is calling for applications to fund a high quality innovative research into Human-Animal Interaction (HAI). This grant is part of Waltham's continued support into high quality, evidence-based research critical to better understanding the beneficial relationship between people and companion animals. The knowledge brought about by this research is vital in bringing to life Mars Petcare's purpose: A BETTER WORLD FOR PETS.

Waltham will award a maximum of USD 255,000. The grant may be used for staff costs to support the main researcher. Further details and application form are available below to download.

#### **Preferred topic areas**

For research to be eligible for funding under this call, the application must focus on HAI (specifically companion animal ownership or interaction). Please note, preference will be given to projects that examine these issues using a combination of behavioural and physiological data collection techniques.

- Under-researched populations (e.g., Global South countries, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ community)
- Impact on mental health (e.g., under-researched disorders/populations, across lifespan)
- The role of technology in HAI across different populations (e.g., Millennials, Generation Z)

Learn more at <https://www.waltham.com/grants-awards>

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