

# **Submitting a Research Grant Proposal to the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI)**

A Guide for Applicants



# What We'll Cover

- About HABRI
- The HABRI Research Grant Program
  - Review of RFP
  - Timeline for Grant Review Process
- How to Submit a Competitive Proposal
  - Review of Proposal Guidelines
- Application Materials
- Submitting a Proposal



# Vision & Mission

## **Vision:**

The human-animal bond is universally embraced as an essential element of human wellness.

## **Mission:**

Advance, through science, education and advocacy, the vital role of the human-animal bond in the health and well-being of people, pets, cultures, and communities.



# Strategic Imperatives

## **RESEARCH WITH IMPACT**

Play a leading role in the advancement of human-animal interaction science, focusing on research with real-world impact.

## **MEANINGFUL POLICY INITIATIVES**

Drive policy changes that support the human-animal bond and strengthen the role of companion animals in society.

## **EXPANDING PARTNERSHIPS**

Partner with a broad alliance of companies and organizations to advance the human-animal bond as a vital component of personal wellness and public health.

## **DRIVING THE CONVERSATION**

Serve as the leading global information source and educator on the human-animal bond.



# Research Portfolio

- ❑ 57 projects funded since 2014
- ❑ Average \$50,000 per project
- ❑ 20 month duration
- ❑ US & international institutions
- ❑ Child health & development, healthy aging, mental health & wellness

<https://habri.org/grants/projects/>



# Research Portfolio

- ❑ First study on service dogs for post-9/11 veterans with post-traumatic stress
  - ✓ Better sleep
  - ✓ Improved quality of life
  - ✓ Increased work presenteeism
  - ✓ Overall reduction in symptom severity
  
- ❑ Major study on therapy dog welfare
  - ✓ 600 canine saliva samples, 400 videos
  - ✓ No signs of undue stress
  
- ❑ Largest ever study on pets in the classroom
  - ✓ 39 classrooms, 591 students, third/fourth grade
  - ✓ Increased pro-social skills, decreased problem behaviors, and improved academic competence



# 2025 Request for Proposals

## Goals

- Direction on strong research design
- Relevance to HABRI and its mission
- Emphasis on translational research

## Funding Opportunities

Grants & Funding

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

**Deadline: Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 11:59pm Eastern**

The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (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), both for the people and the animals involved. Proposals should have a strong theoretical framework and focus on innovative approaches to studying the positive effects of companion animals on human health.

HABRI is interested in funding a wide range of studies focused on the human-animal bond.

#### SHARE THIS



HABRI 2025 Request for Proposals

HABRI 2025 PDF Instructions

HABRI 2025 Proposal Guidelines

HABRI 2025 Budget Form

HABRI 2025 Scoring Rubric

HABRI 2025 Power Calculation Form

<https://habri.org/grants/funding-opportunities/>



# 2025 Request for Proposals

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

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 advance 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 positive effects of companion animals on human health.



# 2025 Request for Proposals

HABRI is interested in funding a wide range of studies.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Broadly generalizable human-animal bond studies, impacting large populations in the categories of child health and development, healthy aging, mental health, and physical health.
- The human health impacts of animal-assisted interventions, including in professional practice, volunteer programs, and educational contexts, and research that refines or informs best practices to improve health outcomes and quality of life for the humans and animals involved.



# 2025 Request for Proposals

HABRI is interested in funding a wide range of studies.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Studies that are translational in that at least one aim is to produce actionable advice, guidelines, and recommendations for **policymakers** as it relates to supporting pet owners, the human-animal bond and/or human-animal interactions.
- Studies that are translational in that at least one aim is to produce actionable advice, guidelines, and recommendations for **veterinarians and other pet care professionals, pet owners and/or those interested in acquiring a pet.**
- Studies with clinical implications for human health practitioners or studies with at least one aim to produce actionable advice, guidelines, and recommendations for **human health practitioners working with and/or supporting pet owners, human-animal bond and/or animal-assisted interventions.**



# 2025 Request for Proposals

HABRI is interested in funding a wide range of studies.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- How companion animal ownership and/or interaction helps address those impacted by public health and social crises, such as social isolation and loneliness; suicide, addiction, and substance abuse; access to social service and housing; trauma and/or post-traumatic stress; obesity and physical activity; and cardiovascular health.
- The role of pets in supporting the health and wellbeing of people from diverse backgrounds or underrepresented or minoritized populations.
- The role of the human-animal bond in veterinary medicine, including its impact on access to care, compliance and quality of care, and veterinary team wellbeing. Studies that explore the role of veterinarians and animal health professionals in human-animal bond research are also of interest.
- The bond between humans and a wide variety of pet species which may include (but are not limited to) dogs, cats, birds, reptiles, small mammals, horses and fish.
- International perspectives of the human-animal bond, investigating the health outcomes of pet ownership and/or AAI in countries, communities, and cultures, including those that are under-represented in current literature.



# Pet Partners Supplemental Funding

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 currently underrepresented in the literature.
- Studies involving virtual adaptation of AAI and other [animal-related engagement](#)
- 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.

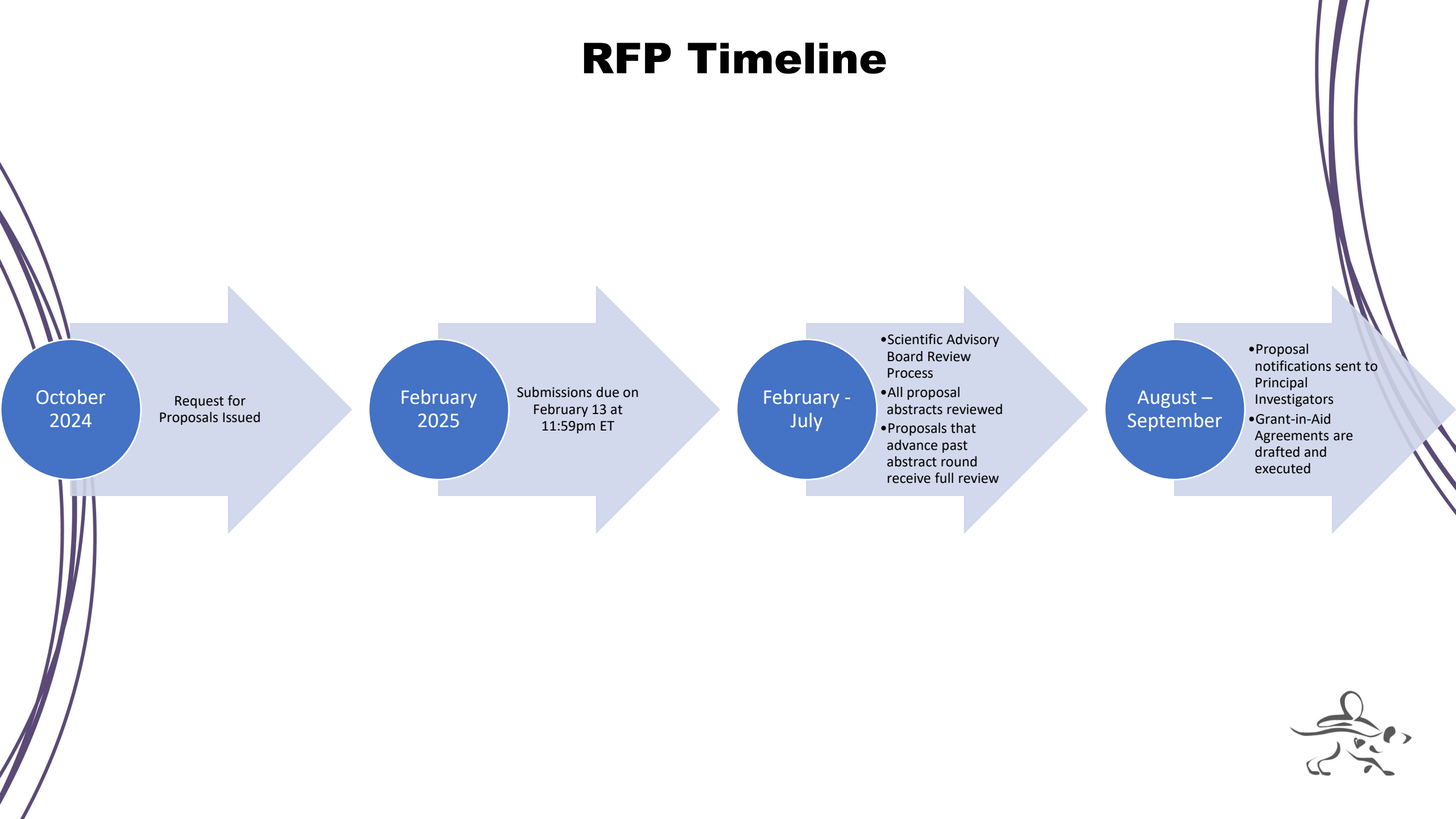
For more information, please contact Dr. Taylor Chastain-Griffin  
at [taylorc@petpartners.org](mailto:taylorc@petpartners.org).



**Pet Partners**



# RFP Timeline



October  
2024

Request for  
Proposals Issued

February  
2025

Submissions due on  
February 13 at  
11:59pm ET

February -  
July

- Scientific Advisory Board Review Process
- All proposal abstracts reviewed
- Proposals that advance past abstract round receive full review

August –  
September

- Proposal notifications sent to Principal Investigators
- Grant-in-Aid Agreements are drafted and executed



# RFP Materials

Download/view at: <https://habri.org/grants/funding-opportunities/>

- **Proposal Guidelines**
  - Serves as a detailed outline for all proposals
- **Budget Form**
  - How to format your project budget
- **Power Calculation form**
  - Where applicable, applicants complete this to indicate statistical power
- **Scoring Rubric**
  - Utilized by the HABRI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to evaluate all proposals
- **RFP FAQ**
  - Answers commonly asked questions
- **Sample Application**
  - A blinded proposal that was awarded funding, to serve as a model for applicants as they write their proposals



# **Proposal Guidelines Overview**



# Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) 2025 Proposal Guidelines

## Proposal Submission

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 2025 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 2025 Grant Proposal – Principal Investigator Last Name."

Attach the full proposal document (see guidelines below) to your email. The full proposal must be converted to a single PDF document that includes all letters and attachments and does not exceed 5 MB.

For help converting your proposal to Adobe PDF, please see the [PDF Instructions](#). Some applicants have experienced page number increases after conversion to PDF, so check closely as exceeding page limits will result in disqualification. Please make sure that scanned documents are legible before adding them to the proposal PDF.

Proposals should be designed to convince the reviewers that the applicant clearly understands the topic to be studied, has the expertise to conduct the study, has devised a logical scientific approach and is proposing a study that is relevant to HABRI. For more information on HABRI visit [www.habri.org](http://www.habri.org).

## Proposal Guidelines

**IMPORTANT: Proposal format:** This proposal should be written on 8.5 × 11 inch paper with a minimum of ¼ inch margins; single-spaced using no smaller than an 11-point font (Times, Times New Roman or Arial font preferred) and is page limited where noted. The order of the written proposal should follow the outline described below (including use of the outline numbering and headings). Answer the questions individually, and if any of the questions are not applicable, indicate this with "N/A".

Do not include extra information not requested in these guidelines (articles, extra pages of figures, reports, etc.). Figures, tables and graphics must be included in the "Study Proposal" page limit below and must be readable. Anything extra added to the proposal will not be reviewed.

**Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory and failure to do so will result in disqualification (note: page limits are strictly enforced).**

### I. Title and Abstract (one-page limit):

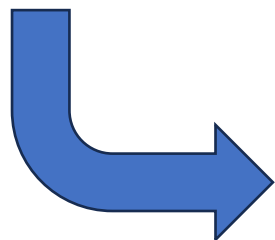
This page should contain the project title and a comprehensive scientific abstract. Abstracts should be designed to convince the reviewers that the applicant clearly understands the topic to be studied and has devised a logical scientific approach and is proposing a study that is relevant to HABRI.

Abstracts should not contain information that identifies the investigators and **must use the following headings:**

1. **Title:** (limit of 150 characters, including spaces - do not use "ALL CAPS")
2. **Rationale:** (Why is the project being done? Why is it relevant to HABRI and the human-animal bond?)
3. **Hypothesis/Objectives:** (Clearly state the hypothesis to be tested, study objectives, or both.)
4. **Study Design and Methods:** (Describe the study design and methods to be used.)
5. **Preliminary Data:** (Clearly summarize applicable preliminary data and how it will support your proposal.)
6. **Expected Results:** (What are the expected results/outcomes?)
7. **Budget and Timeline:** (Please list the following:

Revised 9/2024

All abstracts  
undergo a blinded  
review by SAB






Preliminary data should be from the Principal Investigator, Co-I or team's previous work. If you lack preliminary data of your own, please only cite external work in the Justification, Significance and Literature Review section.

psychology, neuroscience, child development and more. Please write your proposal submissions with the multi-disciplinary nature of the review board in mind. Proposals that are overly complex or fail to clearly describe the objectives of the study using grounded, tangible descriptions will be viewed as less competitive.


1. **Specific, Testable Hypothesis and Objectives:** Please be precise and enumerate. Feasibility and realistic expectations of objectives are paramount. Overly ambitious objectives, relative to either time span or scope, will be penalized. Every aim or hypothesis should include a complete analytic plan.
2. **Justification, Significance and Literature Review:** Clearly describe the background of the problem and justify the need for the study. Include relevance to human-animal bond, specific human and animal populations, including health professionals (where applicable). The literature review should indicate current status of research in the area, including the investigator's contributions.
3. **Preliminary Data:** *Preliminary data that support the proposal will substantially strengthen your proposal.* Succinctly describe any previous findings conducted by the investigator(s), which support the proposed research. Indicating that preliminary data exists without additional detail is not sufficient. If you do not have any preliminary data specific for your proposal, data to show reviewers that your approach has potential to be impactful and can be feasibly carried out should be included in the above *Justification, Significance and Literature Review* subsection of the Study Proposal.
4. **Experimental Methods and Design:**
  - Clearly address specific objectives within an overall theoretical framework.
  - Be precise about experimental design, number of participants, schedules, and expected outcomes.
  - Applicants proposing an intervention should provide justification for the selection of this particular intervention.
  - Applicants proposing an intervention should include a theory of change and how this will be used to inform the intervention.
  - For each specific aim, provide a rationale for experimental methods and design and a section on expected outcomes, pitfalls and alternative approaches.
  - If the proposal will be enrolling participants, justification must be provided that the proposed number of participants can be located/recruited within the planned timeframe.
  - If the proposal will be enrolling participants, milestones must be established at multiple stages of recruitment to indicate alternative recruitment strategies should the initial target not be met.
  - If study plans to enroll children or participants across a wide age range, developmental considerations should be addressed. In addition, including descriptions of age groups and age/developmental stage in your analysis will strengthen your proposal.
  - Applicants collaborating with institutions must document that the institutional case load is adequate to provide the number of participants needed to complete the study as proposed.
  - Validation of any instruments proposed must be provided.
5. **Data Analysis Plan:** Every aim or hypothesis should include a complete analytic plan. The data analysis plan should describe the statistical methods and procedures or qualitative design/methods used to analyze the data you collect from the study and must correspond to each aim of the study. When appropriate, describe the method of power analysis and estimated sample size using the Power Calculation Form ([click here](#)) and include this completed form after this section. Submit a separate Power Calculation Form for each measure in your proposal. This form does not count towards the 6-page limit. Applicants who are seeking funding primarily to complete data analyses or conduct additional analyses for a mostly completed study should indicate so here. Applicants should provide a detailed explanation for why these analyses were not done in the scope of activities in their original study and what these analyses will contribute beyond findings of the original study.
6. **Impact Plan:** Clearly describe specific actions that will be taken to ensure the results of this research are disseminated. Clearly describe pathways to impact. Include a description of key stakeholders that this project is trying to reach, such as researchers, pet owners, policymakers, human health professionals, and/or veterinarians and pet care professionals.
7. **Timeline:** Indicate sequence and schedule of experiments for the total project as well as duration of project (a maximum of three years is permitted). All projects are subject to annual review. Approval of multiple-year





Include as much detail  
as possible per aim.

Not required  
but should be  
provided when  
using  
inferential  
statistics



4. **Experimental Methods and Design:**

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- Be precise about experimental design, number of participants, schedules, and expected outcomes.
- Applicants proposing an intervention should provide justification for the selection of this particular intervention.
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projects does not guarantee funding beyond year one. You do not need to schedule time for publication, but you should include sufficient time to complete data analysis as it must be included in the final report. Applicants are expected to have IRB/IACUC approval(s) and to have prepared study materials upon the start date of the project. IRB/IACUC approval should therefore not be included in the project's timeline. Please note: Based on the review process, the earliest possible start date for a HABRI grant will be September 1.



IRB/IACUC are not required prior to the submission of an application but is required should funding be awarded.

Indicate how the health and welfare of the animals involved will be protected here



**VIII. Human and/or Animal Subjects Justification and Regulatory Information (no page limit):**

As part of the review process, the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) carefully considers whether the proposal includes the necessary safeguards to protect the rights and welfare of all human and animal research participants. The Principal Investigator(s) are responsible for submitting for IRB and/or IACUC approval. IRB and/or IACUC approval is not required prior to the submission of an application but is required should funding be awarded.

Funds will be withheld until proof of IRB/IACUC approval has been provided. Applicants are strongly encouraged to begin the approval process prior to submitting for a HABRI grant.

Regardless of the status of such approvals, the proposal should describe how human and animal welfare will be assured. Any intervention involving animals should include a plan of action for how the health and welfare of the animals will be protected throughout the course of the study (i.e. will the animals be required to be under the regular care of a veterinarian), including if and how a veterinary professional will assist in the event of a medical emergency. Any study seeking to evaluate stress in subjects (e.g. through administering a stress test), be they humans or animals, should adhere to the highest ethical standards regarding welfare.

When some or all of the human study participants are likely to be vulnerable to coercion or undue influence (e.g. children, individuals with impaired decision-making capacity, or economically or educationally disadvantaged persons), additional safeguards to protect the welfare of these subjects should be included.

Applicants should carefully consider and describe how they will conduct the proposed project following their institution's health and safety regulations, in addition to local, state, and federal health guidelines and regulations.

For proposals seeking supplemental funding available through Pet Partners, please indicate clearly the plan to incorporate Pet Partners therapy animal-handler teams in this section.

**IX. Facilities and Equipment (one-page limit):** Availability of necessary facilities and equipment to complete the proposed study should be documented. If more than one institution is involved, a letter of willingness to collaborate from the outside institution(s) must be included as an attachment(s) at the end of the full proposal PDF.

**X. Cited References (two-page limit):** Include article titles, list all authors (principal investigator name in bold when applicable) and complete references to all publications.

**XI. Budget (one-page limit):** Use this required form: [Budget Form](#)

Indicate only amounts requested from HABRI. All amounts must be expressed in U.S. dollars. In the case of multiple-year projects, the budget should show expenses for each year in separate columns and a "total" column. Commitment of funding beyond any previous year is based on satisfactory progress and availability of funds. HABRI does not pay for capital equipment (i.e., a single piece of equipment, including computers, costing \$2,000 or more), tuition, or salaries for faculty with full-time appointments, with the exception of

Additional information for Pet Partners Applicants requested here.



Salaries and capital equipment must be justified in the following section.





**XIII. Current and Pending Support (no page limit):** Other support for Principal Investigator. Includes all financial support (e.g., federal, nonfederal, commercial, institutional) currently available in support of the investigator's research program. Overlap, whether scientific, budgetary or commitment of an individual's effort greater than 100 percent, is not permitted.

In the interest of ensuring all staff are fairly compensated for their work, when not requesting salary support for any study personnel, please clarify the alternate source(s) of funding in this section.

**Please follow this format when listing other support:**

1. **Project Number:** If applicable, include a code, grant ID or other identifier for the project.
2. **Source:** Identify the agency, institute, foundation or other organization providing support.
3. **Grant Title**
4. **Amount and period of support (dates)**
5. **Major Goals:** Provide a brief statement of the overall objectives of the project, subproject or subcontract.
6. **Annual Costs:** In the case of an active project, provide the current year's budget. For a pending project, provide the proposed budget for the entire project.
7. **Publications and Presentations:** List the presentations and publications resulting from the award.
8. **Overlap:** After listing all support, summarize any potential overlap with the active or pending projects and this application in terms of the science, budget or committed effort. If the proposal is

**XIV. Prior HABRI Support (no page limit):** If the principal investigator and/or co-investigator(s) have received HABRI support in the past three years, provide the following information for each HABRI award received:

1. **Project Number:** If applicable, include a code, grant ID or other identifier for the project.
2. **Source:** Identify the agency, institute, foundation or other organization providing support.
3. **Grant Title**
4. **Amount and period of support (dates)**
5. **Major Goals:** Provide a brief statement of the overall objectives of the project, subproject or subcontract.
6. **Annual Costs:** In the case of an active project, provide the current year's budget. For a pending project, provide the proposed budget for the entire project.
7. **Publications and Presentations:** List the presentations and publications resulting from the award.
8. **Overlap:** After listing all support, summarize any potential overlap with the active or pending projects and this application in terms of the science, budget or committed effort. Please clearly describe the relationship of this submission the prior support (ongoing or completed). If the project is still ongoing, please include a summary of the progress. If the project is completed, please include a summary of the final results.

**XV. Biographical Data (two-page limit for each individual):** For each individual (principal investigator, co-investigator(s)) provide the following information:

1. **Name:**
2. **Position/role on this project:**
3. **Current position (title, name, and address of institution):**
4. **Education/training (degrees, institution, year of graduation, field of study):**
5. **Previous positions and honors (include membership on any advisory committees):**
6. **Selected peer-reviewed publications (include titles, all authors, and complete reference):**

**XVI. Letters of Support:** Support letters from collaborators **must** be included. Collaborators are defined as individuals or organizations, not named as Co-Investigators, whose participation is crucial to the project's success.

Letters of support indicate that you have established a good relationship with your collaborators and lend additional confidence in the proposal



# To Submit a Proposal

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 2025 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 2025 Grant Proposal - Principal Investigator Last Name."

Please contact Matt Cryer with any questions [mcryer@habri.org](mailto:mcryer@habri.org).



# Questions





**Thank you!**