



2027 Annual Request for Proposals
Addressing Evidence-Based Health Benefits of Human-Animal Interaction
Deadline: February 18th, 2027 at 11:59pm Eastern

Note: This year, in addition to this Annual RFP, HABRI is issuing a **special call** for proposals seeking rigorously designed, impact-driven research focused on addressing the complex issue of **pet-inclusive rental housing**. For more information, see the [2027 Special Request for Proposals – Pet-Inclusive Rental Housing](#).

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 human-animal interactions (HAIs), 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 with a particular interest in research that centers on pets and pet owners.

Areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Studies investigating the vital role of pet ownership for the health and well-being of people, pets, and communities.
- Broadly generalizable human-animal bond studies impacting large populations in the categories of child health and development, healthy aging, mental health, and physical health.
- 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, the human-animal bond and/or animal-assisted interventions.
- How companion animal ownership and/or interaction helps address those impacted by public health and social crises, such as generalized anxiety and stress; social isolation and

loneliness; suicide, addiction, and substance abuse; access to social services; trauma and/or post-traumatic stress; obesity and physical activity; and cardiovascular health.

- The role of pets in supporting the health and well-being 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 well-being. Studies that explore the role of veterinarians and animal health professionals in human-animal bond research are also of interest.

Evaluation will be based on rigor of study design and methods, potential for significant impact on future practices related to the understanding or treatment of mental and physical health conditions, capabilities of investigators, adequacy of facilities, achievable recruitment plans, cost-effective yet realistic budget, potential contribution to the scientific field of human-animal interaction, and relevance to [HABRI's mission](#).

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 important to HABRI's mission of supporting the mutual health benefits of the human-animal bond. All funded studies must undergo Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) review and approval, and all animals participating in funded studies must be under the care of a veterinarian. No invasive procedures will be funded.

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.

Application Details

All proposals must follow the Proposal Guidelines. Proposals will be evaluated using the Scoring Rubric. Both documents available here:

[Proposal Guidelines](#)

[Scoring Rubric](#)

To Submit a Proposal

To apply for a HABRI grant, please send an email to submissions@habri.org. Please ensure the subject line of the email and PDF submission are both titled "HABRI 2027 Grant Proposal – Principal Investigator Last Name."

Proposals that meet all requirements in the Proposal Guidelines will receive an identification code (e.g., HAB27-001, HAB27-002). HABRI will send this code to the applicant in an email confirming receipt of the proposal, with details about next steps in the review process.

If you do not receive your identification code within 48 hours of submission, please reply to your original submission email to request confirmation of receipt and to receive this code. Proposal

submissions that do not meet the requirements of this request for proposals or the proposal guidelines will not qualify for consideration. This includes incomplete proposals or proposals received after the deadline.

Application Review Process

Proposals will be evaluated by an independent review board comprised of experts from a variety of fields, including human-animal interaction, veterinary medicine, animal welfare, gerontology, psychology, neuroscience, child development and more.

Qualified proposals will first undergo a rigorous abstract review, where each proposal's abstract, which will be blinded by researcher and institution, is evaluated based on design, potential for impact, and relevance to HABRI's funding opportunity. **Therefore, it is vital that submitted abstracts are complete and clear.**

Proposal submissions that advance to the next round then receive a full review.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is HABRI funding available to international applicants working outside the United States?
 - a. 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. A full list of HABRI-funded projects can be found [here](#).
3. Does HABRI fund capital projects or programmatic research?
 - a. No, HABRI does not accept proposals seeking to fund capital projects.
 - b. Proposals that seek to evaluate the success of an existing program may be considered. However, proposals that seek funding largely for programmatic support will be rejected. If the Principal Investigator is the proprietor of the program, such proposals will face close scrutiny.
4. Is there a maximum budget for a HABRI grant proposal?
 - a. No. While there is no budget cap, HABRI awards an average of 5-6 projects each year with project costs averaging approximately \$50,000 per project and an average duration of about 20 months. Project budgets should be realistic, appropriate for the work described, and well-justified.
5. Can I use AI in the preparation of my submission?
 - a. Yes, AI can be a helpful tool in proposal preparation. Please note that, however they are prepared, all proposals should be well thought out, written in complete sentences, and reflect the expertise and thinking of the PI and their team. See *X. Cited References & Acknowledgements* in the proposal guidelines for further instruction on citing use of AI generated content.

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.

Please direct all inquiries about the application or award process to Matt Cryer at mcryer@habri.org.