



VISION AND MISSION

The Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) is a non-profit foundation that funds scientific research into the mutually beneficial relationship between pets and people – the human-animal bond. HABRI uses that knowledge to inspire actions that improve the lives of pets, people and the communities where they live.

HABRI serves as a rallying point for a growing assembly of companies, organizations and individuals with the common goal of building broad understanding of the healing power of the human-animal bond, leading to a greater presence of pets in society as beneficial contributors to human health.

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

Mission: Establish, through science and advocacy, the vital role of companion animals in the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Peer-reviewed scientific research in important areas of human health show that interaction with companion animals has physical and psychological benefits for PTSD, autism, depression, healthy aging and child health.

HABRI's research grant program continues to advance the scientific study of the evidence-based health benefits of companion animals on human health. Each year, HABRI accepts research proposal submissions to investigate the health outcomes of pet ownership and animal-assisted activity, both for the people and animals involved. Proposals are evaluated by an independent Scientific Advisory Board comprising of experts in the field.

Key areas of focus include:

- **Child Health and Development**
- **Mental Health and Wellness**
- **Healthy Aging**

COMPREHENSIVE RESOURCE FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND INFORMATION

A key HABRI initiative is the development of the world's most comprehensive online library for data, research and collaboration on multi-disciplinary human-animal bond studies – www.HABRICentral.org. This online resource is made possible by the HABRI Foundation in collaboration with the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and Purdue Libraries. HABRI Central houses more than 28,000 entries and now serves as an indispensable resource for the research community.

AWARENESS

This evidence that pets benefit individuals, families and communities is significant, and supports the concept that we should work to support responsible pet ownership in America as a matter of public health policy.

The human-animal bond encourages improved animal care and welfare. According to a 2016 HABRI survey of 2,000 pet owners: when educated about the scientific research on the health benefits of pets, 89% of pet owners are more likely to take better care of their pets and 62% are less likely to skip visits to the veterinarian.

HABRI's first-of-its-kind survey of 1,000 family doctors and general practitioners found that 97% of doctors surveyed believe there are health benefits to owning a pet. A majority of doctors have recommended a pet to a patient and 74% are even willing to prescribe them.

A HABRI study conducted by Terry Clower, PhD of George Mason University, to analyze the impact of pet ownership on health care spending found that pet ownership saves the U.S. healthcare system \$11.78 billion annually.

HABRI is also partnering with other like-minded organizations to raise awareness of the health benefits of the human-animal bond with new audiences. HABRI partners include the Anxiety and Depression Association of America (ADAA), Guard Your Health, Mental Health America (MHA), National Council on Aging (NCOA) and Pet Partners.

SUPPORTERS

HABRI was founded by the American Pet Products Association (APPA), Petco Animal Supplies and Zoetis. These companies, along with PetSmart, serve on the HABRI Board of Trustees. Organizations that support HABRI include: Banfield Pet Hospital, Bayer HealthCare Animal Health, Big Heart Pet Brands, Central Garden and Pet, Found Animals, Grizzly Pet Products, Healthy Paws Pet Insurance & Foundation, IDEXX, Merial, Petco Foundation, PetSmart Charities, Phillips Pet Food & Supplies, Nationwide Pet Insurance, Nestle Purina, and WellPet. Associations that support and advise HABRI include the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), American Humane, American Veterinary Distributors Association (AVDA), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC), North American Pet Health Insurance Association (NAPHIA), Pet Leadership Council, Pet Food Institute (PFI), Pet Industry Distributors Association (PIDA), Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) and the World Pet Association (WPA).

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