



Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) Foundation

BACKGROUND

The Human Animal Bond Research Initiative (HABRI) is a non-profit foundation that serves as a rallying point for a growing assembly of companies, organizations and individuals with the common goal of building broad understanding, education and adoption of the human-animal bond as a beneficial factor in human health.

VISION AND MISSION

Vision: Demonstrate that our relationship with pets and animals make the world a better place by significantly improving human health and quality of life.

Mission: Encourage informed decisions and actions that support the presence of pets and animals in society by advancing the science that demonstrates the positive roles they play in the integrated health of individuals, families and communities.

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Strong peer-reviewed science has already been identified in several key areas of human health. HABRI now has validated scientific evidence of the benefits of animals in areas including:

- Cardiovascular Disease
- Depression
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Autism
- Childhood Allergies and Immunity
- Dementia/Alzheimer's Disease/ Neurological Disorders
- Cancer

Among key findings, research has shown that interaction with companion animals can have physical benefits to those with PTSD including the release of oxytocin and endorphins in the brain; pets can have a protective effect for young children from allergies later in life; and patients recovering from cardiac events have a better rate of survival if they own a pet.

HABRI continues to play a leading role in funding new research in the areas child health and development; mental health and wellness; and 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 Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine and Purdue Libraries. HABRI Central houses more than 21,000 entries and continues to grow as new human-animal studies and research areas emerge.

AWARENESS AND PUBLIC POLICY

HABRI is building and significantly raising awareness of the scientific evidence of the health benefits of pets among the general public, veterinarians, and medical professionals. When people become more aware of these benefits, they are more likely to acquire pets and recommend them to others. Doctors are also more likely to recommend pets to their patients. More pets will contribute to a healthier society.

FOUNDERS & SUPPORTERS

HABRI was founded by the American Pet Products Association (APPA), Petco Animal Supplies and Zoetis who serve on its Board of Trustees.

HABRI Steering Committee companies and organizations include: Banfield Pet Hospital, Bayer Animal Health, Central Garden and Pet, Hartz, Morris Animal Foundation, Natural Balance, PetSmart, Nestle Purina, Sergeants, and WellPet.

Associations that support HABRI include the American Animal Hospital Association, American Humane Association, American Veterinary Distributors Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, Pet Industry Distributors Association, Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, and the World Pet Association.

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