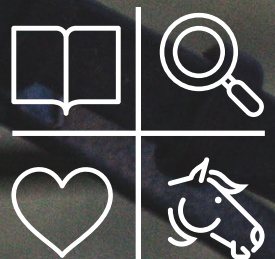


# 2019 Annual Report





**The Foundation for the Horse is a 501(c)(3) grant-making foundation dedicated to improving the welfare of horses through Education, Research, and Benevolence.**

Support of working equid welfare projects is critical to improving the health and capacity of the working horses, donkeys, and mules that are essential to family incomes in the developing world.

(Michael Pintar Photography)







# We are here for the horse

For 25 years, The Foundation for the Horse has advanced care and compassion through support of equine disaster preparedness and relief programs; charitable care of working horses, donkeys, and mules in developing countries; veterinary student scholarships and training opportunities; and equine research.

The Foundation was created in 1994 around the idea of uniting everyone who is dedicated to improving horse health and well-being. Today, we are a dynamic organization focused on funding relevant research, education, and benevolent outreach that benefits all horses and those who care for them.

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Disaster preparedness grants have helped emergency responders across the U.S., including the University of California, Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team, respond effectively when natural disasters imperil horses.



# Foundation Leadership

The Foundation for the Horse is governed and stewarded by veterinarian members of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and other stakeholders who share its values. These committed volunteers possess deep knowledge of the medical, conditional, and environmental needs unique to horses, and they work in collaboration with a team of experienced executives from across the equine industry.



(Photo Courtesy Dr. Eleanor Green)

## 2020 Officers

David D. Frisbie, DVM, Ph.D.,  
DACVS, DACVSMR  
*President*

Scott A. Hay, DVM  
*President-Elect*

Emma K. Read, DVM, MVSc, DACVS  
*Vice President*

Jeffrey T. Berk, VMD, MRCVS  
*Immediate Past President*

Lisa S. Metcalf, DVM, MS, DACT  
*Treasurer*

David L. Foley, CAE  
*Executive Director*

## 2020 Board of Directors

Luke Bass, DVM, MS, DABVP  
Duane E. Chappell, DVM  
Amanda M. House, DVM, DACVIM  
Foster Northrop, DVM  
Mitchell K. Rode, DVM  
Deborah L. Spike-Pierce, DVM, MBA  
Sarah Reuss, VMD, DACVIM

## 2020 Foundation Advisory Council

Richard D. Mitchell, DVM, MRCVS,  
DACVSMR  
*Chairman*

Anthony Blikslager, DVM, Ph.D., DACVS  
*Vice Chairman*

Mitchell K. Rode, DVM  
*Board Liaison*

Scott W. Anderson, DVM  
Michelle M. Henry Barton, DVM, Ph.D.,  
DACVIM

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Brian S. Carroll, DVM  
Michelle C. Coleman, DVM, Ph.D.  
Bonnie J. Comerford, DVM  
Bridget Heilsberg, DVM  
Elizabeth B. Juliano  
Rebecca McConnico, DVM  
Ron McDaniel  
Montgomery D. McInturff, DVM  
Lisa S. Metcalf, DVM, MS, DACT  
William A. Moyer, DVM  
David O'Connor  
Amy Poulin-Braim, VMD, DACVS-LA  
Debra C. Sellon, DVM, Ph.D., DACVIM  
Melanie Smith Taylor  
Kathleen Waldorf, MD  
Nathaniel A. White, II, DVM, MS, DACVS  
Susan L. White, DVM, DACVIM  
Brooke Woodruff  
James Zelif, DVM

## Executive Team

David L. Foley, CAE  
*Executive Director*

Keith D. Kleine, MS  
*Director of Industry Relations*

Lori K. Rawls  
*Director of Finance & Operations*

Paul D. Ransdell, Ed.D.  
*Senior Development Officer*

## Advisory Council Members Whose Terms of Service Concluded in 2019

Mark Baus, DVM  
Duane E. Chappell, DVM  
Elizabeth A. Fish, DVM

## Board Members Whose Terms of Service Concluded in 2019

Leslie A. Easterwood, DVM  
Tracy A. Turner, DVM, DACVS, DACVSMR



# Letter from the Foundation Chair



*Dr. Richard D. Mitchell  
Chair, Advisory Council*

**Dear friends,**

2019 was a year of significant innovation for The Foundation. Throughout the year, we celebrated 25 years of making a difference in the lives of horses as the AAEP Foundation and paid homage to those predecessors who helped lead us to this time of transition; and, in December, we announced our new name—The Foundation for the Horse—and unveiled our new website, [foundationforthehorse.org](http://foundationforthehorse.org).

As we embark on our next quarter-century under a new name, our vital mission to improve the welfare of horses remains resolute.

## **In support of our mission in 2019:**

We re-entered the equine research arena by awarding funds for five exceptional projects by up-and-coming investigators.

Our steadfast commitment to disaster relief for horses involved four grants for disaster preparedness programs, as well as convening of an organizing meeting of 23 industry thought leaders and action experts from across the disaster medicine spectrum to identify best protocols for real-time impact when natural disasters strike.

We continued to prioritize the health of the world's working horses, donkeys, and mules through funding of 10 "Equitarian" projects to provide care for working equids in developing countries, and training for their owners.

Our investment in student education took the form of 55 veterinary scholarships and support for 37 student chapters at veterinary schools in the U.S. and Caribbean.

In all, it was a banner year in which we awarded \$731,000 in grants and scholarships, grew our Halina Leonard Legacy Society from 20 to 30 members, and increased overall gift and investment income from \$909,076 in 2018 to \$1,866,669.

It is an honor to chair these efforts and a pleasure to thank you for your financial support.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Richard D. Mitchell'.

Richard D. Mitchell, DVM, MRCVS, DACVSMR  
Chair, Advisory Council



# 2019 Grants

## More than \$730,000 awarded for horse welfare projects in 2019

The Foundation in 2019 awarded \$731,000 for 28 programs and projects committed to improving the welfare of horses. This marked the second consecutive year that grants and scholarship awards exceeded \$700,000, indicative of The Foundation's growing impact and future potential on horse welfare nationally and internationally.

Following is a list of awards by project area. Selected projects are highlighted on subsequent pages.



### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS:

- Disaster preparedness training – Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation
- Large Animal Rescue Course – Lincoln Memorial University CVM
- National Alliance of State Animal & Agricultural Emergency Annual Conference
- Noah's Legacy Disaster Relief Fund – Los Angeles County Animal Care Foundation

### EQUINE RESEARCH:

- Equine platelet-derived peptides as novel disease-modifying osteoarthritis drugs
- Identification and validation of alleles responsible for cardiac arrhythmias and atrial fibrillation
- Investigating equine endometrial signaling pathways using an organoid culture system
- Understanding the role of MHCI compatibility in equine allogenic mesenchymal stem cells
- Validation of an antemortem diagnostic test for equine neuroaxonal dystrophy (eNAD)

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

- AAEP Past Presidents' Research Fellowship
- Coyote Rock Ranch Scholarships (3)
- EQUUS Foundation Research Fellowship
- Merck Animal Health Scholarships (5)
- Oakwood Foundation Scholarships (5)
- Race for Education/Platinum Performance Scholarships (36)
- Zoetis Scholarships (4)

### WORKING EQUID WELFARE:

- Donkey Welfare Symposium
- Equitarian Young Leader Development Scholarships
- Guatemala Equitarian Project – 6 Communities
- Guatemala/Nicaragua – Texas Equitarian Project
- Haiti Veterinary Agent Training
- Honduras Equitarian Project
- Ngabe Indigenous Reserve, Costa Rica Equitarian Project
- Peru Equitarian Project Cusco Region – 5 Communities
- South Dakota Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Equitarian Initiative Project
- South Dakota Cheyenne River Indian Reservation Equitarian Initiative Project

### OTHER GRANTS & PROGRAMS:

- Student Educational Programs
  - Essential Skills Workshops on Dentistry and Podiatry (17)
  - Student Chapter and Convention Programs (52)
- Equine Disease Communication Center
- Retired Racehorse Project Thoroughbred Makeover and National Symposium



In support of exceptional science and promising young researchers, The Foundation in 2019 awarded over \$99,000 for five equine research projects investigated by graduate students and residents. See page 6 for details.





# Foundation in Action: Education

Financial support and training opportunities provided by The Foundation help overburdened veterinary students and new graduates enter practice on sound financial and scholastic footing so they can fulfill their potential as equine veterinarians for the benefit of their patients.

**With veterinary school graduates of 2019 carrying average student loan debt of approximately \$150,000 according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, scholarship assistance is essential to retaining talented students aspiring to careers in equine medicine.**



Four recent graduates, two postdoctoral researchers, and 49 equine veterinary students shared in scholarship awards totaling \$430,000 from The Foundation and its scholarship program partners in 2019. Among them was Zoë Williams (center), a DVM-Ph.D. graduate student at Michigan State University investigating the characteristics, etiology, and possible treatments of Myofibrillar Myopathy in Warmblood horses.



Over 300 veterinary students in the U.S., Canada, and the Caribbean, including this future horse doctor at the University of Missouri, received hands-on instruction in dentistry or podiatry through Foundation-supported Essential Skills Workshops.

More than 110 veterinary students went from how-to to can-do in the fundamental areas of radiology, ophthalmology and emergency medicine during Foundation-supported student labs.







# Foundation in Action: Research

With fewer university researchers investigating equine diseases and ailments, The Foundation nurtures scientific advances through funding of innovative projects with the potential to advance the health and well-being of countless horses.



(Photo Courtesy Dr. Jen Barrett)

**“Collectively, these projects have the potential to yield new treatments for problematic conditions, expand access to novel therapies, increase racehorse safety, and enable breeders to raise healthier horses.”**

— Dr. Anthony Blikslager, Research Subcommittee chair, on the Foundation-funded projects (below) investigated by up-and-coming researchers.



**Validation of an antemortem diagnostic test for equine neuroaxonal dystrophy (eNAD)**

Dr. Callum Donnelly, University of California, Davis

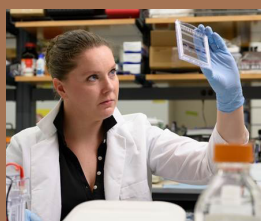
**Potential impact:**  
Influence the development of tests to aid in the diagnosis of horses with eNAD and provide tools for genetic screening in order to prevent future cases.



**Identification and validation of alleles responsible for cardiac arrhythmias and atrial fibrillation**

Dr. Sian Durward-Akhurst, University of Minnesota

**Potential impact:**  
Enable increased monitoring of genetically at-risk horses, retirement from racing before the onset of potentially fatal arrhythmias, and decreased incidence of arrhythmias in breeding animals.



**Equine platelet-derived peptides as novel disease-modifying osteoarthritis drugs**

Dr. Jessica Gilbertie, North Carolina State University

**Potential impact:**  
Catalyze development of an off-the-shelf osteoarthritis therapy that eliminates the variability of traditional PRP.



**Understanding the role of MHC1 compatibility in equine allogeneic mesenchymal stem cells**

Dr. Aileen Rowland, Texas A&M University

**Potential impact:**  
Accelerate identification of a universal allogeneic MSC, which would make stem cell therapy more obtainable via federal approval, client expense, and ease of use.



**Investigating equine endometrial signaling pathways using an organoid culture system**

Dr. Riley Thompson, University of Tennessee

**Potential impact:**  
Allow researchers to evaluate new treatment options for uterine diseases, reduce the use of live animals for research, achieve significant economic savings, and improve animal welfare.





# Foundation in Action: Benevolence

Whether sponsoring disaster preparedness training, organizing natural disaster relief efforts for horses and their caretakers, or supporting the care of the world's working equids, The Foundation answers the call to champion the welfare of all horses, including those at-risk or in transition.

**“It’s reassuring to know that groups like The Foundation are in our corner—well before a disaster strikes and long after the smoke clears.”**

— Dr. John Madigan, University of California, Davis, Veterinary Emergency Response Team



In addition to administering much-needed treatments to working equids, education of owners and caretakers is essential to creating a sustained impact.

(Michael Pintar Photography)



40 veterinary students at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tenn., trained for the day disaster strikes during a Foundation-sponsored large animal rescue workshop using live horses and models. Such training is vital to horse welfare, particularly in rural areas with limited access to technical rescue teams.



Cowboy Swagger and champion barrel racer Fallon Taylor took home overall top honors in the 2019 Thoroughbred Makeover, which showcased the versatility of 374 off-the-track Thoroughbreds in 10 different disciplines. The Foundation-supported event helps stimulate a secondary market for Thoroughbred racehorses that could be at risk at the conclusion of their racing careers.



# 2019 Balance Sheet For the period ended 12/31/2019

## ASSETS

Bank Accounts . . . . .	\$527,708
Accounts Receivable . . . . .	\$37,306
Other Current Assets . . . . .	\$177,645
Other Assets . . . . .	\$4,959,941
<b>Total Assets. . . . .</b>	<b>\$5,702,600</b>

## LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

### Liabilities

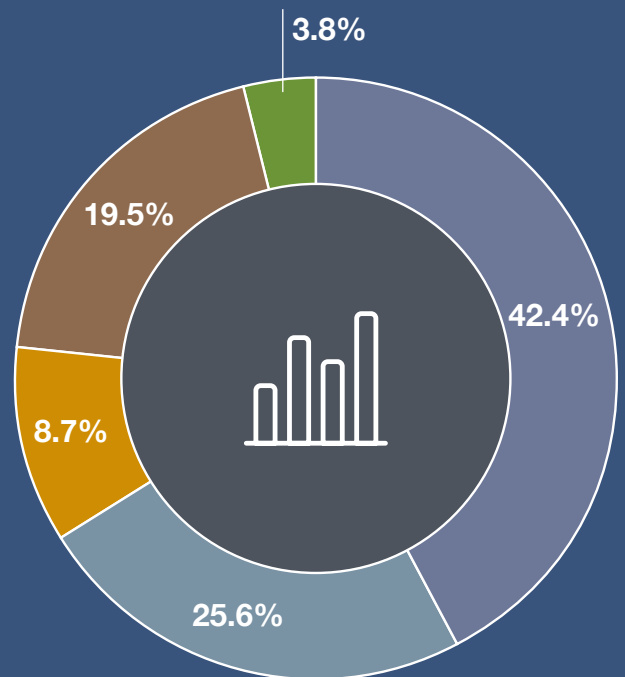
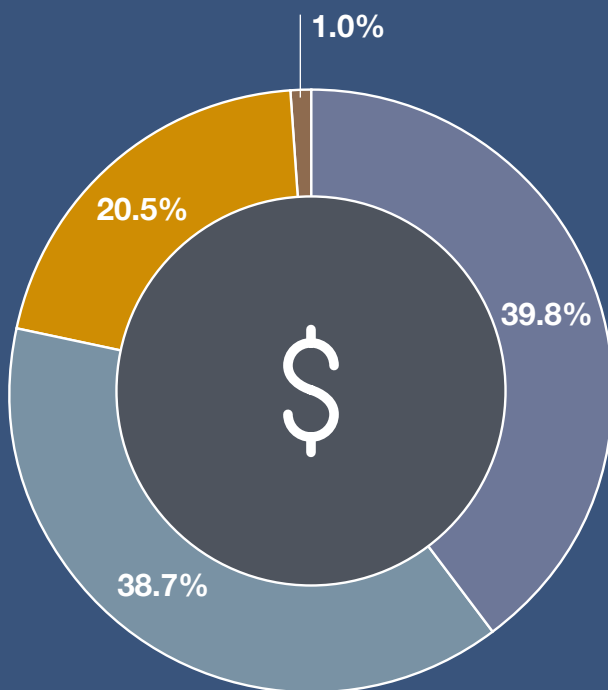
Accounts Payable . . . . .	\$20,619
Other Current Liabilities. . . . .	\$25,000
<b>Total Liabilities . . . . .</b>	<b>\$45,619</b>

### Equity

Opening Balance Equity. . . . .	\$2,805,105
Restricted Net Assets . . . . .	\$989,477
Unrestricted Net Assets. . . . .	\$1,117,694
Unrealized Gain/Loss . . . . .	\$20,731
Net Income . . . . .	\$723,974
<b>Total Equity . . . . .</b>	<b>\$5,656,981</b>

**Total Liabilities and Equity. . . \$5,702,600**

# 2019 Income Statement



## INCOME

Investments	\$742,285
Restricted	\$722,071
Unrestricted	\$382,660
Other Income	\$19,653
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,866,669</b>

## EXPENSES

Education & Scholarships	\$484,923
Disaster Relief, Working Equids & Horses at Risk	\$293,067
Equine Research	\$99,000
Fundraising	\$222,369
Administration	\$43,335
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,142,694</b>



# Special Gifts

## Halina Leonard Legacy Society

Named in 2019 for our founding donor, Halina Leonard Legacy Society members have arranged to support The Foundation through their will, life insurance policy, or other end-of-life provision. We sincerely thank the following members for their generous and enduring prioritization of horse welfare.

Dr. Kathleen M. Anderson  
Carolyn Anderson-Meadows  
David T. & Jodie K. Bingham  
Dr. Jerry B. & Melinda Black  
Dr. Stuart E. Brown  
Dr. Carol K. Clark  
Dr. Reynolds & Evie Cowles  
Dr. Ann E. Dwyer  
Dr. Leslie A. Easterwood  
David & Wendi Foley  
Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Jr.  
Dr. Brendan W. Furlong  
Leslie R. & Dr. Kathleen 'Casey' Gonda  
Kevin & Elise Hinchman  
Keith Kleine  
Jean Kopperud  
Drs. John Lee, Jr. & M. Jane Fassinger  
Drs. Tom R. & Erin Lenz  
Dr. Yvonne Elizabeth Liddell  
Drs. Wayne McIlwraith & Nancy L. Goodman  
Dr. John S. Mitchell  
Dr. Richard & Julie Mitchell  
Dr. William A. Moyer  
Rosalynn Myers  
Dr. Paul & Suzanne Ransdell  
Carey Ross  
Margo Saville  
Drs. Lawrence & Marlene Shamis  
Drs. Nathaniel A. White & Leslie Sinn  
Anonymous

## "My Mentor" Honor Wall

Established in 2016 to recognize the importance and significant impact of mentorship, the My Mentor Honor Wall is reserved for individuals who have been nominated and in whose name The Foundation has received cumulative charitable contributions of \$5,000 or more from family and colleagues. We celebrate the influence and professionalism of the following distinguished individuals, each of whom is enshrined on the My Mentor Honor Wall.

Dr. Richard L. Bagley  
Dr. Scott Bennett  
Dr. Robert W. Copelan  
Dr. Stephen P. Dey, II  
Dr. Edward Hagyard Fallon  
Dr. John F. "Jack" Fessler  
Dr. Albert A. Gabel  
Dr. Ronald L. Genovese  
Dr. Peter Haynes  
Dr. Charles "Chuck" D. Heinze  
Dr. Doug Herthel  
Lowell Ross Hoff  
Dr. Midge Leitch  
Dr. Ted Lock  
Hughie Dean "Mac" McInturff  
Dr. William A. Moyer  
Dr. Roger J. Panciera  
Dr. Charles W. Raker  
Dr. Howard C. Raven  
Dr. A. Martin "Marty" Simensen  
Dr. John Thomas "J.T." Vaughan  
Dr. Walter W. Zent







4033 Iron Works Parkway  
Lexington, KY 40511

(859) 233-0147

[foundationforthehorse.org](http://foundationforthehorse.org)

email: [info@foundationforthehorse.org](mailto:info@foundationforthehorse.org)