



RESEARCH CAREER AWARD

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

(Completed by the applicant)

LETTER OF INTENT

The Letter of Intent is intended to help reviewers assess the applicant's commitment to a career in equine research, the significance of their research program, and the anticipated impact of the award on their professional development.

Submit a one-page cover letter describing your long-term career goals in equine research and how this award will contribute to achieving those goals. Include the nature of your equine research program and how your research is advancing, or has the potential to advance, equine veterinary care. Share the impact of your project/program on your career and future plans. Include any personal or professional challenges you've faced during your training program and how you adapted as a result of those challenges.

CURRICULUM VITAE

The Curriculum Vitae is intended to help reviewers assess the applicant's academic and professional accomplishments, research productivity, and potential for continued growth as an equine researcher.

Not to exceed two pages. Include notable professional accomplishments, including published and presented works.

SCIENTIFIC ABSTRACT

The Scientific Abstract is intended to help reviewers evaluate the scientific merits of the applicant's research, their ability to communicate research findings, and the potential impact of their work on equine health and veterinary medicine.

Select one aspect of your research program (a completed or near-completion project that could be presented at a continuing education conference or submitted for publication) and prepare a structured abstract following the outline below. Scientific abstracts should be easy to read with

adequate white space, and should not exceed 3 pages. The intent is for this abstract to be written by the trainee applicant, and no portion of the abstract should be cut and pasted from grant applications. The composition of the abstract should not rely on generative artificial intelligence programs, and original writing and ideas will be prioritized in funding decisions.

TAKE HOME MESSAGE or IMPACT TO THE EQUINE INDUSTRY:

A concise summary of the main conclusion or hypothesis of the project (two or three sentences), noting potential impacts or applications.

Example: Local anesthetic injected into the coffin joint is not selective for only this joint. Such injections will desensitize much of the navicular bone and its suspensory ligaments, which has implications for diagnosing diseases, providing proper treatment, and determining long term prognosis.

INTRODUCTION:

A brief rationale for the study and acknowledgement of any significant published works. The clinical significance should also be included, as well as a clear statement of the objective or purpose of the submission. The statement of objectives is usually found in the last sentence of the Introduction.

MATERIALS & METHODS:

Materials and Methods should describe experimental methodology in the case of an experimental study or, in the case of a clinical study, should include a description of the population from which the animals were selected and how they were selected for inclusion in the report. Data obtained and how they were obtained must be described. Appropriate statistical methodology should be included.

RESULTS:

The Results section should include actual results to date, including any data that can be represented with graphs or figures. Results of statistical analysis should be included in the submission with appropriate reporting of measures of confidence.

DISCUSSION:

In the Discussion section, important findings based on the results of the study should be stated. Results should be put in context with other work in the field. How the results differ or agree with previously published work and why any differences may have occurred should be discussed. A conclusion and practical take-home message for equine veterinarians, researchers, industry stakeholders, or horse owners, as appropriate should be clearly stated in the summarizing statement. Future directions should be proposed.

MENTOR REFERENCE INSTRUCTIONS

(Completed and submitted independently by the mentor)

The Mentor Reference is intended to provide reviewers with an independent assessment of the applicant's research potential, career trajectory, and the quality of the mentorship and training environment supporting their development.

Complete the MENTOR FORM, providing basic contact information, a description of your relationship with the applicant, and upload a LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION, not to exceed two pages.

In the letters of recommendation, please evaluate the applicant's potential for a successful career in equine research. The letter should address the applicant's aptitude for scientific inquiry, research productivity, independence, scientific writing and communication skills, and commitment to advancing equine health and veterinary medicine through research. Please comment on the applicant's future career goals and their potential to become a leader in the field of equine research.

Mentors are also encouraged to discuss any personal or professional challenges the applicant has encountered during their training and how they have demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and growth in response to those challenges.

Please describe the mentorship and training experiences that have contributed to the applicant's development as an equine researcher. Include examples of how the applicant has engaged with opportunities available through your laboratory, department, institution, or professional organizations, such as research collaborations, leadership roles, grant-writing workshops, teaching or mentoring activities, scientific presentations, professional development programs, or service opportunities. Please comment on the applicant's initiative in pursuing these experiences and how they have contributed to their research skills, professional growth, and career readiness. This information will assist the review committee in assessing both the applicant's potential for future success and the effectiveness of the mentorship and training environment that has supported their development.