

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Center for Companion Animal Studies Young Investigator Grants Program-2026

The Center for Companion Animal Studies started this program in 2007 to provide seed money research grants that involve DVM students in companion animal research. There have been many corporate sponsors over the years that made unrestricted donations to this program including Blue Buffalo, Boehringer-Ingelheim-Merial, Elanco Animal Health, IDEXX Laboratories, International Veterinary Seminars, Merck Animal Health, Nestle Purina Pet Care, Royal Canin, SCAVMA-Hill's Pet Nutrition, Veterinary Centers of America, Vetoquinol, Virbac, and Zoetis Animal Health. In 2024, Purina PetCare made a \$1,500,000 donation to the program to endow it in perpetuity. Most years, we can fund up to 16 projects. Please follow these instructions when submitting your grant. Please call (970 481 8586) or email mlappin@colostate.edu if you have questions about the suitability of your project.

The donations are unrestricted and so any companion animal (any species that is kept as a pet) research project is potentially fundable. Each proposal should include a DVM student as a co-investigator; it is expected that this person will be the primary author of a Research Day abstract the subsequent year. The DVM student should be primary author or coauthor on any resultant publication. **Priority points are assigned to proposals on which the PVM student participated as an author.** Proposals from interns, residents, or graduate students in the Department of Clinical Sciences can be accepted, but must include a faculty sponsor. Proposals from DVM students with a faculty sponsor from other CVMBS departments are acceptable but projects with clinical application will receive priority consideration. We will fund up to 2 grants on nutrition topics in 2026. It is fine to apply for other grants concurrently, but please disclose that in your application as described in the following sections.

The grant should be written in Word and **converted to a PDF** to preserve your formatting and then emailed to Jennifer Hawley at jrhawley@colostate.edu by **Monday, March 16, at 8 am.** Jennifer will acknowledge receipt of all grants by return email on or before 5 pm that day. **If you have not received a confirmation email by that time, please contact Jennifer and I immediately by email.** The grant review committee includes DVM students and faculty members and anticipates announcing the funded projects by March 30, 2026.

Grants up to \$8,500 will be considered for funding. **Preference will be given to clinical research projects that can be completed while the participating DVM student is still a student at CSU and for which the results are likely to publishable at least as a scientific abstract at CVMBS Research Day, 2026.** All research projects can be considered but priority consideration will be given to projects that do not require euthanasia.

Please use the following instructions in the preparation of your proposal. Use 1-inch margins, single-spaced, with Times New Roman 12 point font throughout. **Proposals that do not conform will have points deducted in the proposal ranking formula.**

1. Title page listing the authors, degrees, and current positions, contact information for the principal investigator, and a scientific abstract (250 words maximum).
2. Summary of the proposal (2 pages maximum)
 - a. Introduction and importance
 - b. Hypotheses and objectives
 - c. Experimental design including methods of analysis
 - d. Proposed timeline
 - e. Publication and future funding plan (if applicable)
3. Budget and justification (1 page maximum). Describe the source of shared funding if applicable. **The total budget can exceed \$8,500 but please explain clearly where the difference over \$8,500 will be funded (faculty start up funds etc.)** If you submitted a College Research Council proposal or a project for the Veterinary Summer Student Program for a part of the same work, please state how this funding will relate to that proposal. Please be detailed in your budget. It is acceptable to use the budget to support your student's salary or travel for the student to pick up clinical samples etc. but is not to be used for travel to scientific meetings.
4. References (no page limitation).
5. Description of the planned DVM student role (1 page maximum). **Please indicate in this section whether the student was involved in the development of the research idea and was involved in writing the grant.** Grants that do not have a DVM student identified at time of submission are acceptable but not recommended as these usually fall below the funding mark.
6. Final report on your 2024 or 2025 Young Investigator Grants, if applicable (1 page maximum each). If the previous work led to a publication (CVMBS Research Day abstract, other scientific abstract, or manuscript), please provide the citing. If you used the results as pilot data in the submission of a larger internal or external grant, please describe.

After the grants to be funded have been selected, appropriate Colorado State University approvals must be obtained. For each of the funded projects, a progress report should be provided by the Research Day abstract deadline; we will send you a reminder. It is the responsibility of the faculty sponsor to make sure the final reports are submitted. Submitted or published abstracts or manuscripts should be included. If your previous study has not been completed, please provide an updated timeline and publication plan at that time.