

## FIFTH ROUND – CALL FOR RESEARCH STUDY PROPOSALS

EveryCat Health Foundation is a nonprofit, charitable organization. Our mission is to improve feline health by supporting research and education.

Since the Foundation's inception, grants totaling more than \$8 million have been awarded to researchers and veterinarians.

*"Every cat, every day, benefits from EveryCat-funded research"*

### Topics of Interest:

1. The Impact of Dietary Phosphorus and Calcium on Feline Kidney Health
2. Early Renal Disease Biomarkers

EveryCat Health Foundation, in a special funding opportunity co-sponsored by Nestlé Purina Petcare and Mars Petcare is calling for proposals that address the effect that dietary phosphorus and calcium to phosphorus ratio have on renal health in cats as well as biomarkers to detect early renal disease. Approximately \$400,000 is available to fund proposals of sufficient scientific merit, relevance, and potential to impact feline health.

Additional research is critically needed to further the understanding of renal health in cats, and to better define potential risks

associated with dietary phosphorus and dietary calcium to phosphorus ratio of foods. A recent consensus agreement from experts in veterinary nephrology and nutrition concluded that excess of certain forms of dietary phosphorus can damage kidneys and cause acute or chronic kidney disease, different phosphorus sources can have different physiological effects, and the detrimental effect of phosphorus is inversely related to the calcium to phosphorus ratio.

In addition, short-term acute studies indicate that an increase in post-prandial phosphorus and associated regulatory hormones may explain, in part, the mechanism of adverse effects associated with certain forms of dietary phosphorus. Nevertheless, many gaps in scientific knowledge regarding phosphorus and feline kidney health still exist; therefore, there is need for additional investigators and independent centers to participate in filling these gaps. The overall goal of such research is to provide evidence that will lead to scientific consensus on safe levels and types of dietary phosphorus for feline diets. High priority areas that have been identified and will be given special consideration include investigation of factors that influence phosphorus bioavailability and metabolism including source and form of phosphorus in foods, identification of biomarkers of renal injury (i.e., especially markers that detect early kidney changes before irreversible damage occurs) and identification of in vitro assays that correlate with in vivo function of phosphorus sources.

- **Grants must be submitted through the [EveryCat Grant Portal](#), which will open February 24, 2023.**
- **The deadline for receipt of applications through the portal is Monday, April 17, 2023 (11:59 pm EDT).**
- **The maximum grant amount is \$50,000 for most grants and up to \$100,000 for prospective randomized controlled dietary trial grants.**
- **Grant awards will be announced by early September 2023.**

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- Projects should have discrete and achievable goals within their stated budget and up to a two-year timeframe (see exception below.) They must demonstrate their relevance regarding the topic of interest and their benefit to improving feline health, particularly regarding domestic cats.
- Grants specifically investigating the effect of various levels of dietary phosphorous on the progression of kidney disease in cats using prospective randomized controlled trials may be funded up to \$100,000 for up to **four years**. A summary of prior work with significant results should be included with these proposals. These studies should ideally include at least one qualified nutritionist as an investigator and must include the nutritional analysis of all study and control diets.
- All nutritional studies *must* include a complete description of proposed diets, including anticipated levels of key nutrients (as defined within the study hypothesis) and an evaluation of the diet and proposal by a qualified nutritionist.
- Biomarker assays will be expected to adhere to current sound practices of assay development including phases of assay optimization, qualification, and validation appropriate for the stage of assay development. For fully developed assays, the assay development plan and any preliminary data should be included in the proposal along with clear endpoints for acceptance and sufficient design to ensure that the endpoint measured is the one targeted by the assay.
- Applicants are encouraged to consult with a statistician and must demonstrate they have considered this aspect in the experimental approach.
- Applicants may be faculty or practicing veterinarians, faculty researchers, post-doctoral fellows, veterinary residents, PhD candidates, or veterinary students. Research collaborations across various scientific disciplines are encouraged.
- EveryCat Health Foundation requires the acceptance of our Grant Agreement to release funding.

## FORMAT:

- To apply for a EveryCat Health Foundation grant, please submit your proposal through the [EveryCat Grant Portal](#).
- Examples of successful grant proposals can be found [here](#).
- A checklist of grant proposal guidelines can be found [here](#).
- All attachments must use PDF format only.
- EveryCat Health Foundation can aid with grant writing by offering examples of successful grant proposals and/or advising on mentorship. Request for successful grant proposals example can be made to [grants@everycat.org](mailto:grants@everycat.org).
- Templates are available for Budgets, Timelines, and Abbreviations [here](#) under "Assistance in Applying for a Grant"

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- The Primary Investigator(s) and Grant Administrator will receive a confirmation email once the application is completed.

## Proposal Guidelines The proposal must include the following information:

### I. Cover Page:

- Title of the proposed study.
- Name, institution, email, and regular mailing address of all primary investigators and a list of co-investigators.
- Agency/Institution, mailing address, institution's EIN Number (US applicants only), grant administrator name/email for the agency to which the grant would be payable.
- Amount requested.
- Signature of the principal investigator and appropriate grant administrator.

### II. Scientific Summary (maximum 250 words):

A scientific abstract suitable for veterinary journals that describes the purpose and background of the study.

### III. Lay-language Abstract (maximum 250 words):

Also include an abstract in simple non-technical language for use in EveryCat Health Foundation's press releases, newsletters and website geared towards the general public.

### IV. Continuation Studies:

If the proposal is a continuation of a prior EveryCat Health funded study in this area.

### V. Study Proposal:

- Background (including preliminary data) which clearly address study objectives and hypotheses.
- Include precise reasons for experimental design, number of animals needed, expected outcome, possible limitations to study and alternative approaches. A table of abbreviations is recommended.
- A statistician must provide an evaluation of the design of the study. A thorough description of data analysis must be included in the methods section, including sample size calculations. For power analysis, describe how it was performed and reference the data used for assumptions in the analysis.
- Proposals using client-owned animals must document that the institutional case load is adequate to provide the number of animals per year needed to complete the study as proposed.

### VI. Timeline: Provide a detailed estimate of time to complete work.

### VII. Itemized Budget with justification:

- The final numbers on the budget page must match the amount requested on the cover page. Include a list of any other current sources of funding and/or related grants requested.
- Applicant must provide an estimate on how much time each investigator will spend on the

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project, as well as their role. Indicate and justify a percent effort on this grant for all individuals, such as technicians, graduate students, etc. for whom funds are requested.

- The Foundation does not fund salaries of investigators, major equipment expenditures, travel, publication, or indirect costs. Salaries, supplies, and animal care costs not justified may be deleted from the budget.

#### VIII. Animal Involvement Justification:

Studies must meet stringent humane standards of care when animals are involved. Download the EveryCat Humane Use of Animals Guidelines for additional information [here](#). If applicable, provide a description of the animal care unit at the investigator's facility, including certifications held (such as IACUC guidelines), and plans for maintenance of animals during and after the study (maximum 1 page). Humane treatment of animals is of utmost importance to EveryCat Health Foundation and will be reviewed closely.

- IX. References: Include complete pertinent literature references. All references should include full citations including title.
- X. Curriculum Vitae: Provide for every primary investigator.
- XI. Consent Forms and Questionnaires: If applicable, studies requiring client consent or questionnaires must include the proposed consent for or questionnaires as examples.

### **PUBLICATIONS AND PROGRESS REPORTS:**

Investigators receiving a grant award are required to credit EveryCat Health Foundation in any and all publications arising from this research. Copies of all publications arising from this project should be submitted to the Foundation on or before the time of publication.

A progress report of the funded project is required every six months following the receipt of the grant award until the final project report is submitted. Reports must be submitted on the EveryCat grant portal. A financial report detailing funding and expenditures must accompany the final progress report. This can often be obtained from your financial department. Failure to submit progress/final reports will delay any possible future funding.

*EveryCat Health Foundation welcomes and promotes diversity and inclusion for all who are seeking to create, support, deliver and share the science of understanding, healing, curing, and caring for every cat, every day.*

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