

HABRI 2017 Research Grants

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) reviewed a record number of research proposals and HABRI is moving forward to fund the four top-scoring proposals:

- University of Georgia Research Foundation: **Healthy Aging: human companionship through fostering felines**
- The University of Western Australia: **The health and developmental benefits of companion animals for young children: advancing the evidence base**
- College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri: **Shelter cat adoption in families of children with autism: impact on children's social skills and anxiety as well as cat stress**
- Texas Tech University: **Integration of AAI and applied behavior analysis to improve academic performance in children with intellectual and/or developmental disability**

HABRI is in the process of entering into formal grant agreements with these institutions, and anticipates rolling out public announcements in September and October.

Outreach to Human Health Organizations

As per the Strategic Plan, HABRI has been connecting with human health organizations to help spread the word about the health benefits of pets to a broader audience. We've agreed to partner with the following organizations, with more to come as outreach continues:

- [Mental Health America](#) has agreed to an information sharing arrangement, which includes web links and the development of shared content.
- The Anxiety and Depression Association of America has run a HABRI guest blog, <https://www.adaa.org/blogs/pet-effect>, and has invited HABRI to submit a session for their 2018 conference.
- The [National Employee Well-Being Conference](#) featured a HABRI session titled, *Boost Wellness with the Human-Animal Bond: explore the Value of Developing a Pet-friendly Workplace*, featuring Dr. Alan Beck and Marcie Whichard.
- [Guard Your Health](#), the wellness program for the Army National Guard, has listed HABRI as a supporter and will be featuring HABRI in their "Get to Know" blog series.

We are still looking for additions to HABRI's Outreach Working Group. If you are interested in helping HABRI form new partnerships with organizations in the human health and wellness space, please contact me or Lindsey Melfi (lmelfi@habri.org).

Upcoming Events and Meetings

CVC Kansas City – Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Zoetis, HABRI will be leading a day-long [program on the human-animal bond](#) on August 25th at the upcoming CVC veterinary education conference in Kansas City, Missouri.

Pet Partners Conference – In conjunction with HABRI's service on the Pet Partners Human-Animal Bond Advisory Board, HABRI will be presenting at the upcoming [Pet Partners Conference](#), September 8-9 in Seattle, Washington.

Banfield Pet Healthcare Industry Summit – Thanks to the incredible support of Banfield Pet Hospital, HABRI has the opportunity to host a breakfast briefing on September 13th at the invitation-only [Banfield Pet Healthcare Industry Summit](#).

Pet Night on Capitol Hill – As a HABRI supporter, you are invited to attend [Pet Night on Capitol Hill](#) on October 4th, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rayburn House Office Building Room 2043, Washington, D.C.

HABRI Steering Committee Meeting – The next Steering Committee Meeting will be held on the morning of October 5th, the morning after Pet Night on Capitol Hill, at 8:30 a.m. on the top floor of the [Reserve Officers Association](#), One Constitution Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions about any of these events, please contact me or Lindsey.

Press Coverage

HABRI continues to receive positive news coverage focusing on many aspects of the human-animal bond. Here are just a few recent examples:

- [Who Let the Dogs Out?](#), *Entrepreneur*
- [New Scientific Study: Dogs Improve Social Skills for Children with Autism](#), *San Antonio Express News*
- [Pets Need Shielding from Domestic Violence](#), *Pet Product News*
- [Studies Show Pets May Improve Your Health](#), *South Florida Times*
- [PAWS Act could be a big help to veterans](#), *The Sun Chronicle*
- [Is a pet-friendly office the purr-fect way to engage employees?](#), *Employee Benefits News*