Helping animals now…
Helping animals forever!

Animals enter our lives and our hearts from many directions. They are some of our most faithful and loyal companions. Who hasn’t enjoyed the pleasure of playing with a puppy or kitten? Have you driven along a country road and watched horses wandering the green pastures of a family farm? How many times have you visited a local zoo or aquarium and laughed at the silly antics of some of the world’s most beautiful creatures? Have you witnessed the incredible bond between physically or mentally challenged people and their service dogs?

At the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), we share this love of animals. Our mission is to embrace and advance the well-being and medical care of animals. Our board of directors,

We Care 4 Animals now and forever by focusing our efforts on four key Strategic Initiatives:

1. Education and public awareness
2. Humane outreach and animal welfare
3. Veterinary student enhancement
4. Animal health research

The information in this booklet will explain our four initiatives and the programs we provide within those initiatives. Familiarize yourself with the programs under these initiatives and consider finding at least one way to join us in our work. Through the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we strive to make our world a better home for all animals. We Care 4 Animals, and you can, too!
We help animals now through providing disaster relief, teaching animal owners about responsible pet ownership, educating the public on the vital role veterinarians play in ensuring a healthy food supply for all, and providing charitable medical care to the disadvantaged.

We help animals forever by supporting humane animal medical research. By funding animal health medical studies, we hope to discover new treatments and cures that will keep our pets fit and active for the course of their lifetimes.

Since 1963, the AVMF has brought hope to animals in need. When natural disasters cause massive destruction, the AVMF helps those in need by providing emergency medical care for the animal victims of these tragedies, as well as safe temporary homes in veterinary clinics. For animals with catastrophic illnesses, our research initiatives represent hope for innovative new medical treatments. Disabled military veterans, low-income senior citizens, the homeless, and families who have faced personal catastrophes can receive charitable medical care for their loyal four-footed companions with the help of the AVMF.
Caring for animals encompasses more than food, water, and playtime. At the AVMF, we believe that responsible pet ownership is vital to keeping our pets happy and healthy. That’s why we provide programs to educate and raise awareness of the importance of proper veterinary care.
America’s Favorite Veterinarian

Is your veterinarian a hero in your eyes? Is the waiting room in the veterinary practice filled with happy hounds wagging their tails, excited to see the doc? AVMF’s America’s Favorite Veterinarian contest gives animal lovers the opportunity to celebrate the special relationship they have with their veterinarian.

The nominations tell heartwarming stories of emotional connections among animals, veterinarians, and pet families. We welcome the opportunity to promote the special bond veterinarians develop with their clients.

Each year, the search for America’s Favorite Veterinarian begins with the launch of the nomination process in the spring. After nominations have been accepted, the AVMF’s selection panel reads every application to identify the top twenty candidates. The real fun begins when the finalists are announced, and animal lovers across the country begin to cast their votes for America’s Favorite Veterinarian. Voting begins at the AVMA’s annual convention during the summer, and the announcement of the new America’s Favorite Veterinarian is made in the fall. The winner and the individual who submitted the nomination each receive a special prize package.

Nominating a veterinarian is easy!

Visit www.americasfavoriterveterinarian.org, click Nominate Now, and complete the online nomination form.

Friends, family, and clients can all cast their vote for their favorite candidate. Individuals can cast one vote per day at www.americasfavoriterveterinarian.org. The winner is the veterinarian with the most votes!

My Year as America’s Favorite Veterinarian

As America’s Favorite Veterinarian, my life was affected in many ways. I was interviewed for three news segments, two radio shows and three veterinary publications. The local media attention had an immediate impact on the amount of new clients at my hospital. The hospital grew from a three-doctor practice to needing five doctors in a short period of time. I am currently seeking a sixth doctor to add to our team. Our growth has exceeded our expectations. As we ready ourselves to move into our new facility, we will be fully utilizing it, rather than growing into it. I received calls, emails and notes of congratulations from many former teachers and colleagues. My wife and I were whisked away to Los Angeles to be a part of the Hero Dogs Awards ceremony. I got to see Betty White in person and meet some celebrities. We also got to meet and have dinner with the governor of Florida. The most impressionable thing that happened to me this past year was the response that my homeland gave when the local Guatemala City newspaper, La Prensa Libre, reprinted an article about me. So many old friends, teachers and family members reached out to me and my parents to congratulate me on my accomplishment. That a Guatemalan immigrant in the United States could be America’s Favorite Veterinarian, to be able to represent veterinarians was a tremendous and humbling honor. I hope that the exposure helps the AVMF and encourages those who dream of becoming veterinarians to follow their dreams.
Memorial and Tribute Program

The loss of a pet is a very emotional experience. Personalized pet memorial cards are a sympathetic way of showing how much you care. These cards create special memories and can be framed and used as a keepsake of a pet.

Everyone can participate in AVMF’s Memorial and Tribute Program! It’s an easy and supportive way to send a message of sympathy or celebrate a graduation, anniversary, or a new addition to the family. For veterinary practices, it’s a way to honor or memorialize special clients, but everyone can use it to celebrate a pet’s birthday or memorialize the loss of a pet.

There are two options for expressing your message to friends, family, and clients:

1. **By making an online donation to the AVMF, you can send a tribute or memorial card.** These creative, original cards can be used for any occasion.

   To send a printed card:
   - Visit AVMF.org/memorials to make your card selection and personalize the card. Several names can be submitted in one online session.
   - Make a minimum $10 donation per card.
   - Your card will be personalized and mailed on your behalf.
   - After your cards are sent, the AVMF will keep you, your clients, and your friends informed on how your donation has assisted other animals in need.

2. **Send an ecard! These unique and inspiring cards can be requested on the AVMF’s website.**

   To send an ecard:

   Visit AVMF.org and choose your personal favorite from our collection of electronic greeting cards. There is no charge to send an ecard, but donations in honor of the person or pet to whom you are paying tribute are greatly appreciated.

From Farm to the Family Table

When you enjoy an ice cream sundae on a hot summer day, you can thank a veterinarian for ensuring that your frozen treat is safe to eat. From cow to cone, veterinarians play a vital role in providing a safe, wholesome, and abundant food supply.

**From Farm to the Family Table** educates the public on the important role that veterinarians play in all aspects of food safety, from development to consumption. At the AVMF, we support programs and research to help us learn more.
Partners for Healthy Pets

The AVMF is home to Partners for Healthy Pets, a profession-wide initiative dedicated to promoting the importance of annual veterinary exams. Humans make every effort to have an annual physical, as well as regular dental cleanings. These regular checkups ensure that any medical problems are caught early when illnesses are most treatable.

The same is true for our four-legged family members. An annual visit to a veterinarian is as important as food and love. Our cats and dogs may look healthy to us, but only a veterinarian can determine if they are showing early signs of a hidden medical condition. To safeguard your pet, be sure not to skip the annual checkup.

For veterinarians and their staff, Partners for Healthy Pets offers an online toolbox (partnersforhealthypets.org) that serves as a helpful resource for communicating the value of an annual preventive healthcare visit. The complimentary resources include:

- Preventive healthcare guidelines for felines and canines
- Ways to encourage clients’ annual visits to the veterinarian through online marketing and social media
- The best ways for pet owners and veterinarians to communicate the value of preventive pet healthcare
- Tools for creating a feline-friendly environment in your practice

For pet owners, Partners for Healthy Pets is an essential source of information for keeping your pet healthy. By visiting healthypetcheckup.org, you’ll discover:

- Why a checkup is necessary
- What your veterinarian looks for during the exam
- What to ask your veterinarian throughout your visit
- Where to find a veterinarian in your community
- Fun facts about animals
- How to receive a friendly reminder when it’s time for your pet’s annual veterinary visit

There’s no better way to ensure that pets and their owners can enjoy long, healthy lives together than by giving all animals a veterinary checkup every year.

about animal-related threats that could harm our nation’s food supply.

Veterinarians protect the health of animals by vaccinating, examining, diagnosing, and treating them on a regular basis. Farmers and producers require guidance on nutrition, disease prevention, medical record management, and other health-related issues. All of these services are provided by veterinarians whose daily work ensures our food supply remains safe.

For the latest updates on food safety, visit the AVMF’s special food safety website, keepourfoodsafe.org.
Central to the AVMF’s mission is the elimination of animal abuse and suffering. Providing medical care for animals in devastating circumstances is one of the most emotional situations faced by both animal owners and veterinarians. Through the AVMF’s initiative of humane outreach and animal welfare, we are able to provide financial assistance to veterinarians who treat animal victims of natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes and who assist animal owners when they find themselves in devastating conditions.
Veterinary Care Charitable Fund

At the AVMF, we are especially sensitive to the fact that many loving and caring pet owners unexpectedly find themselves in difficult situations that prevent them from providing the immediate medical care that their pets need. While veterinarians are compassionate and sympathetic to pleas for discounted or no-cost veterinary care, they are not always able to accommodate such requests. It is challenging, both financially and emotionally, for a veterinary practice to provide unlimited charitable care. Even though veterinarians’ hearts would like to say yes, the practice’s economic situation may require them to say no to these requests.

The Veterinary Care Charitable Fund gives the animal-loving public the opportunity to work with veterinarians to provide veterinary care for underprivileged and disabled pet owners. The AVMF serves as an umbrella charitable organization to accept donations and make payments directly to veterinarians for charitable care they choose to provide to their clients.

Together we can help:
- Assistance dogs for wounded military personnel, including dogs in training, active working dogs, and retired service dogs
- Low-income senior citizens whose pets are their only daily companions
- Service dogs for the physically and mentally disabled
- Injured domesticated animals rescued by first responders and Good Samaritans
- Current clients who experience a personal tragedy
- Animals rescued from abuse and neglect

How to help:
You can help the AVMF and your favorite veterinary practice. Tax-deductible donations can be made in several ways:
- Make your donation on the AVMF’s website, AVMF.org. You can direct your donation to your veterinarian, or you can make your donation to the AVMF’s charitable assistance fund.
- Give your donation to the AVMF to your veterinarian during your pet visit. Your veterinarian will forward your gift to the AVMF on your behalf.
- Mail your donation to the AVMF, 1931 N. Meacham Rd, Schaumburg, IL 60173.

Practice participation is effortless:
- Create an account for your clinic on the AVMF’s website, AVMF.org. Your clinic should set up one user ID and password to be shared among appropriate staff.
- You will be notified whenever a donation is made to your clinic’s account.
- Your clinic has continuous online access to your personal account, including information on all donations, payments, and balances.
- The AVMF will send acknowledgment letters to donors that will include the name of your practice. All donors will also receive a year-end letter from the AVMF indicating their annual tax-deductible donation.
- To receive repayment for charitable services, simply file an online reimbursement request.
- Charitable medical care is provided at the discretion of your veterinary practice.
- Participating veterinarians should host an annual educational/awareness program in their clinic or community to inspire clients to support charitable veterinary care.
Our Oath in Action: Making a Difference in the Animal World

Our Oath in Action was created in 2005 when the veterinary profession felt compelled to respond to the devastating impact Hurricane Katrina had on the Gulf Coast area of the United States. To support the disaster response, the AVMF organized more than 200 volunteers from the veterinary community to aid in restoring animal shelters destroyed in the storm. The inaugural program was so well received that Our Oath in Action became a permanent program for the AVMF.

In the following years, veterinarians, technicians, veterinary students, family members, and friends volunteered their time and skills for shelter-rehab projects held annually in conjunction with the AVMA’s annual convention.

In 2013, Our Oath in Action transitioned into a nationwide program held on national Make a Difference Day on the fourth Saturday in October. Teams of veterinary professionals across the country, trained and supported by the AVMF, host community events that bring veterinarians and animal lovers together in an unforgettable day of caring for animals.

Throughout the year, the AVMF accepts applications from student groups, state and local veterinary medical associations, and individual veterinarians for national Our Oath in Action events. The annual submission deadline is December 31. A committee reviews the applications and approves projects that closely tie into the AVMF’s mission of caring for animals. Following project approval, the AVMF works closely with the volunteer team leaders to provide financial and planning support that includes training, marketing assistance, promotional items and other resources necessary for coordinating successful projects.

For more information on submitting a national project proposal, please visit AVMF.org.
Our Oath in Action
Opportunities for you and your team

The AVMF and our individual volunteers have made a significant difference in the lives of thousands of pet owners and improved the health of numerous animals through the Our Oath in Action program. Members of the profession and animal lovers have coordinated projects, ranging from disaster preparedness, pet health fairs, new pet owner information clinics, microchipping services, spay and neuter clinics, and the development of community food pantries.

Put the Our Oath in Action in place, and make a difference in your community,

- Host an open house in your veterinary clinic for new pet owners
  - Work with a shelter to promote your open house
  - Educate new pet parents on the proper medical care their new pet will need
  - Show the importance of microchipping animals
  - Provide nutritional guidance for puppies and kittens

- Participate in your community’s special event
  - Pitch a tent, set up a table, and pull up a chair
  - Introduce yourself and your practice to the community with an Ask the Vet booth
  - Hold educational sessions on pet nutrition and first aid

- Reach out to school groups, senior centers, and scouting organizations and host a veterinary educational program
- Sponsor a pet walkathon
- Prepare a disaster preparedness class for your current clients
- Host a Happy Holidays From Your Veterinarian event
  - Treat your clients to a holiday photo with their pet
  - Teach pet owners about the dangers of household hazards, especially around the holidays (chocolate, electric cords, chemicals, houseplants, etc.)

Not a vet? Not a problem! You can help animals, too!

- Work with your veterinarian to host a dog wash
- Become an AVMF Ambassador for Animals
- Offer to regularly walk a pet for a friend who can’t exercise their animal
- Collect pet food and supplies and donate them to a local shelter
- Deliver pet supplies to your local police department for K-9 dogs

Small hands can also make a big difference.

- Read books about animals and ask friends to make a donation to the AVMF for each book you read
- Make get well cards for sick pets
- Hold a lemonade stand or bake sale and donate the proceeds to the AVMF

Contact the AVMF at info@AVMF.org for information on how you can host an Our Oath in Action project in your practice or community. You can also submit your plans for a community project at AVMF.org
In times of disaster, compassionate and caring veterinarians located near disaster sites often volunteer their services to provide medical care to injured animals and those separated from their owners. Broken limbs, burns, open wounds, or internal injuries are common following major disasters. Veterinarians volunteer their time and donate their services to ensure that these animals are given emergency medical attention, as well as a safe home until their owners can care for them again. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the AVMF reimburses these dedicated veterinarians for the cost of their medications, supplies, and sheltering.
“I have a small practice in Colorado, where the flood was devastating. My office is currently inaccessible, and the road damage is so extreme that I cannot get to most of my clients. Care and services have included zip lining across a flooded creek with medical supplies, pet food, and supplies and hiking through nearly inaccessible areas to visit clients and stranded community members to help."

“I received twenty-three animals on the evening of the tornado. Six were put down at the clinic due to injuries. Two were discharged the next day to treat at home. Fifteen remained, and two additional came in today. One went home today. All the animals have owners who have lost everything. All remaining have serious injuries and will be hospitalized for some time. We do not plan on billing our clients, but we will be trying to raise funds. My clinic is five miles from Moore, Oklahoma.”
Veterinary Relief Grants

Veterinarians themselves can be victims of natural disasters. Veterinary-relief grants help veterinarians rebuild their practices following devastating events. There are times when veterinarians lose their homes, their medical clinics, and their business operations. This means a loss of jobs for clinic employees, as well as a caring and compassionate veterinary practice for the community. The AVMF’s relief grants help veterinarians rebuild their business so they can get back to the job of caring for animals.

“I have been a member of the AVMA, without interruption, for twenty-nine years. Hurricane Sandy’s surge filled my hospital with three-and-a-half feet of salty creek water. I had to use my credit card extensively, included emergency purchases for a new digital radiograph machine for $49,000 in the first month. I am still replacing equipment, recovering charts, painting walls, putting up sheetrock, etc. I am scraping by and have a lot of debt. Anything that the board would generously offer me would be wonderful. I have not discharged any employees and am under constant stress, but I am a veterinarian and I will persevere. Thanks for your kind consideration.”
Saving the Whole Family Program

Don’t wait until it’s too late to prepare for disaster. Devastating natural and manmade disasters can ravage our lives. No one is exempt from the possibility of being affected. You need to prepare for yourself, your business, and your animals, so that you are prepared for natural disasters.

The AVMF has developed a booklet, “Saving the Whole Family,” to help you prepare for disaster and to help avoid leaving animals stranded in the event of a disaster or evacuation.

This booklet is essential for any home, veterinary practice, or other business with live animals present. For information on how you can obtain a copy, please contact the AVMF at info@AVMF.org.

Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams

Volunteers of the AVMA’s Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) serve as first responders to ensure high-quality care to animals during major disasters and emergencies. VMATs provide operational assistance in emergency response programs to state animal authorities and organize and provide training preparedness programs to animal health authorities, veterinary medical associations, and other relevant organizations. The dedicated volunteers who make up the VMAT program help ensure that pets, livestock, zoo animals, and wildlife all receive the care they need during times of crisis.

For information on the AVMF’s disaster programs, to volunteer to serve on a national VMAT team, or to make a donation to aid animal victims of disaster, please visit AVMF.org.
The AVMF invests in the education of America’s veterinary students. We make an impact on student enhancement by empowering students to achieve their goals in veterinary medicine and by recognizing and rewarding individuals who have made extraordinary accomplishments in pursuit of their veterinary training. Our goal is to build a relationship with veterinary students that lasts a lifetime.
The AVMF is proud to be one of the nation’s largest sources of veterinary scholarships and educational programs recognizing excellence in the next generation of veterinary professionals. Financial support from the AVMF can be applied toward tuition expenses, advanced educational opportunities, or other activities that will enhance the medical care of animals now and in the future.

The AVMF provides scholarships for current veterinary students:

■ Merck Animal Health awards $5,000 scholarships to veterinary students in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Southeast Asia. The awards are provided to students focused on careers in companion animal/equine medicine and food animal/aquatic veterinary medicine alike.

■ Second and third year veterinary students, as well as students enrolled in postgraduate education in veterinary medicine, are eligible for the Harold Wetterberg Foundation/AVMF Veterinary Student Scholarship program. Awards are given to students with a connection to the state of New Jersey as a resident, student, or employee within the state.

■ The Auxiliary to the AVMA Legacy Endowed Student Scholarships are awarded to first, second, and third year students based on academic excellence and exemplary dedication to their chosen career path.

■ Veterinary students who demonstrate strong leadership, scholarship, and involvement in extra activities are awarded The Association for Women Veterinarians Legacy Scholarships.

■ The AVMF partners with Winn Feline Foundation to award an annual $2,500 scholarship to a third or fourth year veterinary student who aspires to have a future in feline veterinary medicine.

■ The Mildred C. Sylvester Scholarship is awarded annually to one outstanding veterinary student. Special consideration for this award is given to students from New Jersey; however, the recipient need not be a resident of that state.

■ The AVMA and the World Aquatic Veterinary Medical Association (WAVMA) partner to award scholarships to veterinary students interested in exploring a career in aquatic veterinary medicine.

■ In honor of Dr. Elinor McGrath, the first female veterinarian in the United States, the AVMF awards an annual scholarship to a special student who demonstrates the strength and determination of Dr. McGrath while overcoming unique challenges on their way to success.
Additional student opportunities

- The AVMF provides financial assistance to veterinary students interested in an externship at the AVMA's headquarters office in Schaumburg, Illinois. Applications are posted annually on the AVMF’s website.

- For veterinarians pursuing advanced research training through doctoral or postdoctoral programs, the AVMF provides financial support for the Young Investigator Awards presented at the Merial NIH Veterinary Scholars Symposium.

- Veterinary students are connected to the AVMF through leadership opportunities.
  - The president-elect of the Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) serves on the AVMF’s board of directors.
  - SAVMA junior delegates serve as direct liaisons between the veterinary student population and the AVMF.
  - Veterinary students are welcome to serve on one of the AVMF’s many volunteer committees.

- The AVMF encourages students to submit proposals for the Our Oath in Action program. In past years, students have taken leadership roles on national projects across the country. Students organizing and participating in these events, along with faculty members, state veterinary medical associations, and local veterinarians, have made a remarkable impact in the lives of animals in their communities.

“I believe that I should be chosen for the AVMF scholarship because despite my disabilities, I work hard every day to be the best that I can be. I graduated as valedictorian at Carolina High School and Academy and graduated first in my class at Newberry College. I participate as much as I can with events sponsored at LSU-SVM and am very active in the nine clubs I am in.

I am legally deaf and blind, so I am not allowed to drive a car. I do not believe anyone should have to discontinue their education and dreams because of financial constraints. I'd appreciate any assistance that I receive.”

Jaimi Goodman
Recipient of Dr. Elinor McGrath Scholarship

As the charitable arm of the AVMA, we are invested in helping veterinarians help animals, including our future veterinarians. For more information on how you can support student enhancement visit our website, AVMF.org.
The AVMF helps animals now through the initiatives of education and public awareness, humane outreach and animal welfare, and student enhancement. Our fourth strategic initiative focuses on helping animals forever.
It’s heartbreaking for animal lovers to hear that their beloved pet has a chronic or fatal illness. No veterinarian wants to be the one to deliver that news to a client. Thanks to financial support from the AVMF, great strides have been made in the advancement and availability of improved veterinary treatments. AVMF is committed to building on this progress by providing financial support for humane animal health research projects related to illnesses common among pets:

- For half of pets over the age of ten, cancer is the primary cause of death. While dogs are affected by cancer almost as often as humans, cats tend to have a lower frequency rate of the disease.

- Due to advances in medical research, pets with diabetes are living healthier lives. The illness rate tends to be higher as pets age, but it can also occur in young animals. Early detection can help pet owners manage this illness.

- An annual checkup with your veterinarian is crucial to the health of your pet. One way to ensure that your pet gets a clean bill of health is to provide your pet with a nutritious, balanced diet. We love to reward our animals with fun treats, but snacks are not a substitute for love. Obesity can lead to heart and kidney disease, as well as other medical issues. Remember that one treat given to a twenty-pound dog is equivalent to two double-stuffed Oreos to a human.

- Internal parasites are one of the leading causes of illnesses in horses. These tiny but troublesome creatures are responsible for digestive and respiratory problems. Research has already led to preventive treatments, but additional research can lead to improved therapies for our equine companions.

- Animals are amazing. They are more than our best buddies or lively attractions at zoos and aquariums. More and more studies have proven that animals can be connected to humans through animal assistance and therapy programs. Research to date has only touched on the power of the human-animal bond. We must continue to explore this path.

To help the AVMF in our quest to develop improved medical care for animals, please consider making a donation for research support at AVMF.org.
We care 4 animals… and you can too!

The path to Caring 4 Animals begins with You!

Through four very important steps, you can Care 4 Animals, too!
Ambassador for Animals

Ambassador for Animals is a fun way to help the AVMF Care 4 Animals. This program is open to veterinarians, all members of the veterinary community, animal care givers, pet owners, and children. It is an exciting way to come together and share in activities that promote the health and welfare of animals. By serving as an ambassador, you’ll feel like you are part of a movement that has a powerful impact on the lives of animals.

By enrolling as an AVMF Ambassador for Animals, you pledge to:

■ Join us in Partners for Healthy Pets by enrolling at http://healthypetcheckup.org and pledging that all of your pets receive an annual checkup with their veterinarian.

■ Participate in Saving the Whole Family by creating a disaster-preparedness plan for your family, including your animals. Put together a disaster kit that contains emergency pet supplies. Don’t forget to display your Ambassador for Animals cling in your home’s window! This will alert first responders that you have animals in your home.

■ Support From Farm to the Family Table by visiting KeepOurFoodSafe.org to learn more about the role veterinarians play in the safety of your family’s food. KeepOurFoodSafe.org also provides you with information on how you can practice safe food handling at home with your family.

■ Vote annually for America’s Favorite Veterinarian at www.americasfavoriterveterinarian.org, and don’t forget to nominate the special veterinarian in your life!

■ Be an advocate for animal health research by learning the early warning signs of cancer and diabetes in pets and by maintaining your animal’s weight with a healthy diet.

■ “Like” AVMF on Facebook; follow us on Twitter; communicate interesting animal stories with AVMF; and share social media posts with colleagues, clients and friends.

Also, pledge to do one or more of the following:

■ Recruit a friend or family member to become an Ambassador for Animals.

■ Coordinate or host an AVMF Ambassador for Animals event or activity in your area. The AVMF’s website has a list of easy projects.

■ Watch the AVMF’s website for an Our Oath in Action event in your area. Volunteer to assist in the event, or come out and participate in the big day with your pet.

■ Donate to the AVMF’s Veterinary Care Charitable Fund program.

■ Promote and utilize the AVMF’s memorial and tribute special occasion card program.

■ Volunteer to serve on an AVMF committee.

■ Invite your veterinarian to work with you to present an animal health-related demonstration for school groups, civic organizations, scouting groups, senior citizen organizations, or other social groups.

To become an Ambassador for Animals and receive your official Ambassador for Animals kit, visit our webpage (www.AVMF.org/Ambassador).

By joining Ambassadors for Animals, you will receive:

• The AVMF email newsletter
• Invitations to annual events
• Ambassador for Animals membership card
• A Save Our Pets window cling
• Information on Ambassadors for Animals to share with friends
Become an AVMF volunteer

AVMF programs would not be possible without the dedication of our volunteers. Behind the scenes are the individuals who devote their time to coordinating events, raising funds, reviewing disaster grant and scholarship applications, balancing our budget, and giving us direction for the future.

There is always time to make a difference in the life of an animal. Consider becoming a volunteer on one of the AVMF’s committees or volunteer for an AVMF project. You determine the amount of time you can devote to our mission.

Join a committee

Our dedicated committee members serve as ambassadors for the AVMF, its mission, and its programs. Committee members commit to occasional meetings or conference calls in addition to making a personal financial commitment. We are always looking for enthusiastic people looking for personal connection to the AVMF.

Committee on the Board

- Cultivate and recommend individuals for board and committee membership
  - Set board accountability standards and assess member effectiveness
  - Evaluate bylaws
- Finance/Administration Committee
  - Monitor the performance of short- and long-term investments
  - Recommend an annual budget to the board of directors
  - Appoint independent auditors subject to board approval
- Grants and Awards Committee
  - Review applications for grants
  - Score veterinary student scholarship applications
  - Develop budget items related to grants and awards
- Strategic Planning Committee
  - Develop, monitor, and communicate the goals and objectives of the AVMF
  - Create updates to planning documents
  - Coordinate planning sessions to discuss AVMF priorities, resources, and modifications to the strategic plan
- Resource Development Committee
  - Plan fundraising programs and collaborate with staff to reach development goals
  - Serve as active proponent of AVMF and its fundraising efforts
  - Identify prospective donors and solicit donations
  - Chair an event or include a personal letter with proposals
  - Involve all board members in fundraising
- Volunteer Engagement Committee
  - Seek and coordinate volunteers to work on AVMF projects and programs
  - Collaborate with AVMF staff in the promotion of volunteer programs
  - Participate in Our Oath in Action projects

No matter what your interest and time commitment, there are opportunities for you to work with the AVMF on behalf of animals. Visit the AVMF.org to complete a volunteer sign-up form. We will contact you to match your skills and interests with our volunteer opportunities.
Donate to the Veterinary Care Charitable Fund

A successful charity depends on a community of people working together toward one common goal. We ask for your support in our mission of embracing and advancing the well-being and medical care of animals.

Individual Donations

The AVMF would not be able to provide its programs and activities without the generosity of our donors. Donations can be made:

- Online at AVMF.org
- Mailed to The American Veterinary Medical Foundation, 1931 N. Meacham Rd., Suite 100, Schaumburg, IL 60173

Estate Planning

The AVMF offers information on estate planning to assist you in setting up a lasting legacy to the AVMF. The Founder’s Circle allows for supporters to provide contributions to the AVMF Endowment Fund. These deferred gifts ensure the AVMF’s ability to respond to animals in need well into the future. Gifts can be in the form of charitable bequests, charitable trusts, life insurance, IRA/retirement plan designations, or other deferred gifts approved by the AVMF.

For information on the AVMF’s Legacy Society, please contact Michael Cathey, AVMF executive director, at MCathey@avma.org or (847) 285-6773.

Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

Special opportunities are available to individuals or corporations interested in sponsoring an AVMF program or event. Sponsorship opportunities may be available for the following programs and activities:

- Our Oath in Action
- Saving the Whole Family
- America’s Favorite Veterinarian
- Research Support
- Veterinary Student Scholarships
- From Farm to the Family Table
- AVMF Partner and Impact Breakfast
- Annual Special Event
- Estate Planning sessions

Specific details on these and other corporate sponsorship opportunities can be discussed with Mike Cathey, AVMF executive director.
Make the AVMF your Animal Charity of Choice

A charity you can trust

The AVMF is the charitable arm of the AVMA, a professional organization representing the more than 85,000 veterinarians across the United States. Located in Schaumburg, Illinois, we work closely with veterinarians in all areas of animal health, including companion animal, food animal, academia, zoo and aquatic animals, animal health research, the U.S. military, and public health.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the fiscal responsibility of the AVMF’s management team, the AVMF has earned the prestigious Charity Navigator four-star rating for three consecutive years. Charity Navigator is America’s largest independent evaluator of charities, and its highest ranking is the four-star designation. Only eleven percent of all charities reviewed by Charity Navigator have earned the four-star designation in three successive years.

In addition, The Better Business Bureau awards the Better Business Bureau Charity seal to charities that meet its twenty BBB standards for charity accountability. Only charities that meet all twenty standards are awarded this designation. The AVMF is proud to have earned this award.

We’d like to be your animal charity of choice. Visit CharityNavigator.org and www.BBB.org to read about the AVMF and other animal-related charities. We believe you will find that the AVMF is a charity you can trust.

Support Us

When you donate to the AVMF, you pay it forward by enabling us to help animals now and in the future. To donate to the AVMF visit, www.avmf.org. We thank you for supporting us to continue to carry out our mission.

Contact Us

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The American Veterinary Medical Foundation is governed by a board of directors. According to our bylaws, two-thirds of the members of the board must be veterinarians. Having the expertise of veterinarians to oversee our programs assures our donors and recipients that we have highly qualified resources on hand to safeguard the health and well-being of animals.

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