



THE WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-Being of All Cats

1805 Atlantic Ave., PO Box 1005, Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805
Voice 732-528-9797, ext 31 Fax 732-528-7391 www.WinnFelineHealth.org

Guidelines for Breed-Related Studies

(A Guide for Breed Groups who are Interested in Specific Studies for their Breed)

Breed-related studies may be sponsored by any breed club, breed council, or organized group of breeders. These breed-related studies may be for health problems known to have a genetic basis (including both single gene traits and more complex traits) as well as diseases and disorders that may not have a genetic component.

Geneticists have successfully identified mutations that cause disease or abnormality in some breeds of cats (for example, the mutation responsible for polycystic kidney disease in Persian cats and a mutation responsible for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in the Maine Coon cat). Once the mutation is identified and proven to cause disease in a particular breed, a test may be developed to identify the mutation in any cat **of that breed**. The same disease may be caused by different mutations in different breeds. Therefore, each breed may require separate investigation for a given genetic disease, even when a mutation has been identified in another breed.

Breeders naturally want to have researchers help them investigate certain diseases in their breed. It is important for the success of any research project that a coordinated effort between breeders and researchers is organized.

Winn can play an important role in facilitating these studies. These guidelines are intended to help breeders understand the process of breed-related studies and to help these studies go forward as quickly and effectively as possible.

How does Winn fit in?

The Winn Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. When we fund a study, no overhead expenses are covered by the monies we grant. All of the money goes directly to the research. If a breed group submits money directly to a University, nearly 50% overhead expenses may be charged, so the money is effectively cut in half.

Winn also

- Helps breeders define the project
- Sets up a stipulated breed-related study fund to hold donated monies
- Sends out a special request for proposals to researchers
- Evaluates competitive proposals with our scientific reviewers to see that they meet our funding requirements, including good science, frugal use of the funds available, scientific credentials, and the experience of the researchers, availability of personnel and facilities, etc.
- Assures that no overhead expense is charged to the project
- Accepts donations that may be tax-deductible
- Will match the first \$5000 up to a maximum of \$7500 of funds donated for breed-specific studies from our general donation fund.

How do I identify a problem in my breed?

Breeders may have many issues and concerns about the health of their cats. Some may be common within a breed, while others may be limited to specific family lines. The first step is for the interested breeders to appoint a Breed Group Representative (BGR). The BGR may be a Breed Council Secretary, an independent breed chairperson, a breed club member or other trusted person within the breed. The BGR must be willing to organize breeders (worldwide, if possible) to gather data. Data requiring collection might include:

- Identification of potential affected cats as well as non-affected relatives
- Individual cat identification (e.g., registration number or microchip number)
- Cat signalment (e.g., age, gender, reproductive status)
- Clinical signs, age at onset
- Pedigree
- Relevant medical records (e.g., diagnostic tests, biopsy reports, necropsy reports, imaging reports, etc.)

Once a significant number of examples have been gathered by the BGR, the information can be presented to a researcher who has undertaken similar studies or has a particular expertise in the area in question. Winn can facilitate the review of the data through our research contacts around the world. This review of the data may determine if the problem is appropriate for study. This review helps to define the type of study that maybe needed.

How does my breed find a researcher?

The Winn Foundation works with breeders and researchers to see who is most qualified and available to work on a specific project. There may be several researchers or labs around the world who would work on your project. Winn requires researchers to submit a proposal for review by the Winn Board and our scientific advisors. This helps ensure that the best proposal is awarded a grant and the money committed by breeders is used most effectively.

The BGR should contact Winn as soon as a health issue is identified that may be a candidate for a breed-related studies. Our breed-related studies liaison will work with the BGR and researchers to prepare for submission of a grant proposal.

How do we raise enough money to have the project sponsored?

It takes millions of dollars to run a lab and investigate diseases. Funding a breed-related project often requires that funds be raised by breeders to complement funding available from Winn. Health problems and genetic diseases that are identified in the cat may also apply to humans and other animal species. Based on preliminary studies funded by Winn, researchers often apply to other funding agencies for larger grants to do further work on these projects.

A stipulated fund can be established with Winn to receive donations for breed-related projects. The BGR must work with the Winn liaison to ensure donations are properly identified, received, and acknowledged in an efficient manner. A form has been devised specifically for donations intended for stipulated funds and this form should be used

whenever possible (see Attachment 1). Donations made on-line should be designated using the correct stipulated fund option.

Your breed group can raise money through a website, by mail, with auctions, and raffles (conducted on-line or at cat shows or seminars), as well as through solicitations to breeders (including related breeds). When issues affect more than one breed, Winn can facilitate joint breed-specific projects.

What is the minimum amount to fund a study? How much will Winn contribute?

The minimum amount to fund a breed-related study is \$15,000. Winn will match at least the first \$5000 raised by breed groups for their project, using money in our general donation fund. A maximum of \$7,500 per year in matching funds will be available for each breed-related project. The amount of matching funds available from Winn will depend on factors such as the number of breed-related projects ready for funding in a given year as well as the amount of monies available in Winn's general donation fund.

There is no cap on the amount of money that may be granted for a breed-related project; these studies are not subject to the usual grant limit of \$15,000. The only limit is the amount of money that a group of breeders is able to raise for a given project.

- **It is important that the BGR instruct donors to indicate donations are for the specific breed-related study fund.**
- **Donations may not be credited to the correct fund if Winn does not know the intention of the donor.**
- **Winn strongly recommends that each donation be accompanied by the donation form at the end of this document (attachment #1)**

When are proposals reviewed?

Winn has two proposal review cycles. The main proposal review is the first weekend in February. At this time, many proposals from research institutions around the world are reviewed, including breed-related studies.

The other review takes place in September. This proposal review is focused on a specific fund (The Miller Trust) that allows us to recommend projects annually for funding from a specified list of research institutions (see Attachment 2). Breed-related projects submitted from the designated list of institutions could be received and reviewed then.

At these proposal review meetings, our scientific consultants and the Winn Board review and evaluate each proposal to decide on the projects that are the most worthy of funding. Special consideration is given to breed-related studies when sufficient funds are available from a combination of the monies in the stipulated fund and monies available from the Winn general donation fund.

When the study is funded, the researcher is required to send progress reports to Winn at the end of each calendar year. These reports are available for the BGR. Winn also works with the breed groups to have the research results made widely available to all breeders interested in the study.

What happens if all of our money is not spent right away?

Sometimes more money is collected than is spent in the first round of funding for a breed-related project. The money is then saved in the stipulated fund and used for subsequent rounds of funding for the same project. Often two or more rounds of funding are needed to complete a project. If breed-related project money is not granted within 5 years of collection, the money donated will revert to the Winn general donation fund to be utilized for other studies.

What happens after the proposal is accepted?

After a grant for a breed-related is awarded, breeders may be asked to submit samples (such as DNA samples), pedigrees, and medical reports to the investigator who is doing the study. You may be asked for samples from related but unaffected cats in your pedigree. Cooperation of breeders is often an essential component for the successful outcome of a research project.

How do I get in touch with Winn?

You may contact our Executive Director:

Janet Wolf
The Winn Feline Foundation
293 Landing Road
Newport, NJ 08345
Phone: 856-447-9787
Email: winnfeline@aol.com

Attachment 1: Stipulated funds donation form
Attachment 2: List of Miller Trust Institutions

**Winn Feline Foundation
Breed-Related Stipulated Donation Form**

Enclosed is \$ _____ * for the following Breed-Related Study (please circle one):

HCM in Ragdolls

HCM in Sphynx Cats

HCM in Norwegian Forest Cats

Mediastinal Lymphoma in Oriental Shorthairs

Mammary Cancer in Siamese Cats

Please make check payable to: Winn Feline Foundation. I prefer to charge my contribution to my VISA/Mastercard/American Express (please circle one):

Card # _____ CID# _____ Exp Date _____

Amt \$ _____ Signature: _____

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

Email Address

Optional: This donation is being made in memory of: _____

Please notify:

Name

Street Address

City

State

Zip

**Winn is a 501(c)(3) non profit; therefore your gift is tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.*

Please mail this form with your donation to:

Winn Feline Foundation
1805 Atlantic Ave
POB 1005
Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805
732-728-9797 xt 31
or visit our website: www.WinnFelineHealth.org

Miller Trust Funding
From the Winn Feline Foundation and The San Francisco Foundation

Based on the requirements of the George and Phyllis Miller Trust, proposals will be accepted only from principal investigators at the following institutions:

- University of California at Davis
- Colorado State University
- Cornell University
- University of Illinois
- Iowa State University
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- Ohio State University
- University of Tennessee
- Texas A & M University

Partnerships with listed institutions are permitted.