Vision:

Demonstrate that our relationship with pets and animals make the world a better place by significantly improving human health and quality of life.

Mission:

Encourage informed decisions and actions that support the presence of pets and animals in society by advancing the science that demonstrates the positive roles they play in the integrated health of individuals, families and communities.
A Growing Collaboration

Proud Supporter

habri
human animal bond
research initiative foundation
• World’s largest human-animal bond database
  • www.HABRICentral.org
  • 27,000 resources

• Funding new research projects

• Distinguished Scientific Advisory Board
  • Mayo Clinic, NIH

• The go-to organization for human-animal interaction science
Research

Child Health and Development
- Cancer
- Autism
- Allergies/Immunity
- Learning

Mental Health and Wellness
- PTSD
- Depression
- Social Capital

Healthy Aging
- Cardiovascular Health
- Longevity
- Mobility
- Dementia/Alzheimer’s Disease
Most Doctors have successfully worked with animals in medicine

- 69% of have worked with them in a hospital, medical center, or medical practice to assist patient therapy or treatment
- Interactions with animals improve patients’ physical condition (88%), mental health condition (97%)
- 74% said they would prescribe a pet to improve overall health
Federal Recognition

Healthy Pets, Healthy People
http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/health-benefits/index.html

Human-Animal Interaction (HAI) Research
https://www.nichd.nih.gov/Pages/index.aspx
**Pet Ownership SAVES $11.7 BILLION in health care costs.**

**Pet Owners are Healthier**

- **Fewer Visits to the Doctors Office**
  - 132.8 MILLION pet owners visit a doctor 0.6 times less than the average non-pet owner, resulting in cost savings of $11.37 BILLION

- **Reduced Obesity**
  - 20+ MILLION dog owners who walk their dog five or more times a week show a lower incidence of obesity, resulting in savings of $418 MILLION

> "This analysis is limited and conservative. As we begin to calculate and assign costs to other health benefits, the savings to the healthcare system associated with pet ownership is likely to be even greater."

Terry L. Clower  
PhD, George Mason University

**Scientific Research**

has shown a number of key health benefits associated with pet ownership including studies demonstrating a positive impact on infection control, cardiovascular disease, hypertension, cholesterol, allergies, stress, blood pressure and mental health.

The full report can be found on the HABRI website [www.habri.org](http://www.habri.org)
Animal Welfare

Awareness of the health benefits of the human-animal bond spurs better animal welfare

• Less likely to relinquish a pet

• More likely to take better care of a pet
  • Veterinary visits
  • Vaccines
  • Nutrition
Good public policy should support the presence of pets in our lives!
If/Then

Research Shows:

Companion Animals = Socially connected, supportive communities

Then:

Pet-friendly urban planning
Support pets in rental and public housing
If/Then

Research Shows:

Companion Animals = Help veterans with post-traumatic stress

Then:

Develop programs to provide veterans with service animals

Incorporate pet care when serving homeless veterans
If/Then

Research Shows:

Companion Animals = Support cognitive development and learning

Then:

Promote the use of classroom pets
Support companion animals in library reading programs
If/Then

Research Shows:

Companion Animals =
Alleviate stress and teach empathy,
especially for children and teens

Then:

Programs for at-risk youth

Animal-assisted therapy in treatment programs
If/Then

Research Shows:

Companion Animals = Support healthy aging

Then:

Include pet supplies with Meals on Wheels programs

Support nursing home pet therapy programs and pets in resident facilities
H.R. 4764, Puppies Assisting Wounded Servicemembers Act, which directs the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide service dogs to veterans with severe Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

H.R. 1258, Pet and Women Safety Act, which would expand federal law to include protections for pets of domestic violence victims and establish a federal grant program that will help ensure that victims have access to safe shelters for their pets.
Stay Connected

• Visit www.HABRI.org
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Thank You

Found Animals Foundation

Proud Supporter

Habri
Human Animal Bond Research Initiative Foundation
Your Challenge

Companion Animals = Healthier People, Communities

How do we implement programs and policies that reflect this science?