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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nicole Rowbotham
Clinical Practice Scholarship



Courtney Meason-Smith
Clinical Research Scientist Scholarship

**WINN FELINE FOUNDATION AND THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE PRACTITIONERS
ANNOUNCE 2018 JOINT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS**

Awards support the success of veterinary students who focus on feline clinical practice and research science that are vital to the future of feline medicine and welfare.

[Wyckoff, NJ; Hillsborough, NJ; May 30, 2018] Winn Feline Foundation (Winn) and the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) are proud to announce the two recipients of the 2018 joint scholarships for clinical practice and clinical research scientist.

Both recipients show exceptional promise: Nicole Rowbotham, a junior at Mississippi State University, was awarded the clinical practice scholarship; Courtney Meason-Smith, a junior at Texas A & M University, was awarded the clinical research scientist scholarship. Ms. Rowbotham aspires to obtain her ABVP certification in feline practice and become the owner of a feline-exclusive hospital. Ms. Meason-Smith is eager to develop an independent research career investigating histoplasmosis and cryptococcosis in cats and is developing novel diagnostics and therapeutics to address these conditions.

“Both Nicole and Courtney have demonstrated outstanding leadership skills that have led to many early accomplishments; their zealous pursuit of understanding the unique needs of cats through science will open many doors to them as veterinarians and to the welfare of cats. We aim to support and highlight their enthusiasm for feline medicine so that others will continue on the same path,” said Vicki Thayer, DVM, DABVP (Feline) and Executive Director of Winn.

In 2016, the Boards of Directors of both Winn and the AAFP approved the development and implementation of a joint scholarship offered by the two leading feline-dedicated organizations. After an unprecedented number of applicants and positive feedback from veterinary education programs, the boards decided to continue offering this opportunity, expanding the selection to two recipients in the categories of clinical practice and clinical research scientist. The application process prompted students to answer two essay questions explaining their specific interest and background

in feline health and welfare, as well as their plans for future participation in feline medicine. Recipients of the \$2,500 scholarships are selected based on individual academic achievement, strong leadership, and deep dedication to the study of feline medicine, health, and welfare. For more information, visit: catvets.com.

“We are all impressed by the dedication shown by Nicole and Courtney at such early stages in their careers,” said Heather O’Steen, CAE and Chief Executive Officer of the AAFP. She continues, “Their passion for clinical practice and clinical research, respectively, has already led to phenomenal success in the health and welfare of felines. We’re excited about what they will bring to the future of feline medicine and research.”

The AAFP and Winn are both dedicated to advancing and enhancing standards in feline care. AAFP has numerous resources for veterinary students, such as discounts to the [AAFP Annual Conference](#), and practical resources housed in the Student Center on its [website](#), which includes complimentary webinars and a toolkit for veterinary students. The toolkit contains materials to help veterinary students embrace a feline perspective and obtain further knowledge about the standards needed to elevate care for cats. Winn also offers various educational resources on its [website](#), including the Cat Health News Blog, educational articles, podcasts, videos, and an [annual continuing educational symposium](#). Information regarding research grant awards and cat health study findings are also available on the website or through subscribing to the monthly e-newsletter. Other educational opportunities from [Winn](#) and the [AAFP](#) can also be found on each website.

About Winn Feline Foundation

Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1968 that supports studies to improve cat health. Since 1968, Winn Feline Foundation has funded over \$6.4 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions worldwide. This funding is made possible through the support of dedicated donors and partners. Research supported by Winn Feline Foundation helps veterinarians by providing educational resources that improve treatment of common feline health problems and prevent many diseases. Grants are awarded at least twice yearly with the help of the foundation’s expert review panel. For further information, go to www.winnfelinefoundation.org.

About the American Association of Feline Practitioners

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) improves the health and welfare of cats by supporting high standards of practice, continuing education and scientific investigation. The AAFP has a long-standing reputation and track record in the veterinary community for facilitating high standards of practice and publishes guidelines for practice excellence, which are available to veterinarians at the AAFP website. Over the years, the AAFP has encouraged veterinarians to continuously re-evaluate preconceived notions of practice strategies in an effort to advance the quality of feline medicine practiced. Launched in 2012, the Cat Friendly Practice® (CFP) program was created to improve the treatment, handling, and overall healthcare provided to cats. Its purpose is to equip veterinary practices with the tools and resources to reduce stress associated with the visit and elevate the standard of care provided to cats. Find more information at www.catvets.com.

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For Cat Lovers



Did you know that over 200 million felines worldwide live with a cat-loving companion? In fact, they're considered the number one pet in the world. Winn Feline Foundation aids research directed toward the health and well being of our feline friends. Besides feline-research advocacy, we aim to educate the public and raise awareness about cat health issues through various media outlets. Your support is what makes our work possible, and we thank you.

- [Special Funds for Research](#)
- [Give Directly to Bria Fund](#)
- [Give Directly to Ricky Fund](#)
- [Planned Estate Giving](#)
- [Honor Your Vet](#)
- [Cat Health Library Articles](#)
- [Sponsor a Research Grant](#)
- [50th Anniversary Book](#)

For Veterinarians



Winn Feline Foundation has been instrumental in contributing to the advances in feline medicine. Veterinarians have benefited from Winn-funded research involving a breadth of feline medical issues, including vaccine development, diagnostic test improvement and treatment efficacy evaluation. Winn also provides continuing education (CE) opportunities for veterinarians through our annual symposium and sponsorship of CE tracks at various conferences.

- [Honor A Technician](#)
- [2016-2017 Research Update](#)
- [2017 Miller Trust Grants](#)
- [2018 Winn Grants](#)
- [50th Anniversary Book](#)
- [Pet Memorial Program](#)
- [Cat Health News Blog](#)
- [Animal Health Studies Database](#)

For Researchers



Winn Feline Foundation supports researchers, veterinarians and students in our mutual endeavor to promote and advance scientifically based feline medicine. By the beginning of 2018, Winn will have awarded over \$6 million in grants focusing on the health needs of cats since its inception in 1968. Every dollar goes directly toward research support for general health studies, specific research areas or breed-related health studies.

- [Applying for Grants](#)
- [2017 Miller Trust Grants](#)
- [2018 Winn Grants](#)
- [Humane Guidelines](#)
- [Milestones in Winn Research](#)
- [2016-2017 Research Update](#)
- [Animal Health Studies Database](#)
- [50th Anniversary Book](#)

Latest News

-  [WINN ANNOUNCES GRANT AWARDS FOR ELEVEN FELINE HEALTH STUDIES](#)
-  [WINN AWARDS THREE SPECIAL GRANTS FOR FELINE SHELTER MEDICINE](#)
-  [WINN AND THE AAFP OFFER TWO SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2018](#)

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Upcoming Events

-  **06/28/18** [Winn 2018 Symposium](#) -
-  **08/17/18** [Winn CE Track and Booth at Fetch 360 Conference](#) -
-  **12/13/18** [Winn CE Track and Booth at Fetch 360 Conference](#) -

 [view all events](#)

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