International

There are an estimated 100 million working equids around the world that fuel the economies of Africa, Latin America and Asia. Many of these equids suffer due to the effects of poverty, a lack of knowledge, limited equine health and welfare service providers and the absence of in-country legislation to protect them.

Our International teams work with local partner organisations in equid owning communities to assess and understand the challenges faced. They work directly with owners and service providers, such as farriers, saddlers and veterinarians, to raise standards of care, skills and knowledge to improve welfare and the livelihoods of those dependent upon them.

a. Travel options

(i) Potential applicants can suggest subjects they wish to research that are relevant to current working equid welfare issues or that may benefit working equids. Subject to safety and security, and any health restrictions, research will be considered in a number of our international programme countries that currently include Cambodia, Honduras, Mexico, Nepal, Panama, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.

(ii) Successful applications will be developed together with the World Horse Welfare International Programme team to ensure practicality in terms of logistics and International Programmatic aims. Students are welcome to apply for a research project in a certain country but should be open to working in any of the options listed here, as changes may have to be made based on where best to host a student. Students are also welcome to apply with no particular country in mind, which can be selected at a later date if the application is successful.

Please note that clinical work as part of the research project is not permitted. For further information about our International work, visit www.worldhorsewelfare.org/what-we-do/international/our-work-globally

b. Costings

Costings should be based on best estimates which are subject to change. For example, approximate costings could include:

- Return flight from the UK to any of our programme countries – in the region of £1,000
- Food and accommodation – allow £100 per day
- Other transport costs – allow £150
- Vaccinations – allow £300
- Equipment and resources – allow £200
- Translator (requirement in some countries) - £50 per day

c. Research suggestions
Research themes that are important at a community, local, national or international level. Investigations can be carried out either in-country or remotely, via data collection by our project teams. These are our current key areas of research (projects are not limited to these, but useful to build on our body of evidence in these areas):

(i) Areas of learning on welfare issues which are of high risk and/or high impact:
   - Equid owners and stakeholders help define these issues through focus groups and participatory exercises – analysis of these exercises
   - Baseline research has defined both equine colic and end of life issues to be important e.g. owners’ knowledge, approaches and practices to these issues
   - Investigation using our in-house welfare assessment, analysis of welfare issues and trends (please contact the international team if you would like to see a copy of the welfare assessment)

(ii) Areas of learning on issues that can be used for influencing key stakeholders and bridge to humanitarian issues:
   - The Sustainable Development Goals and the role of working equids
   - The role of women with working equids
   - Socioeconomic relationship between working equids and the livelihoods of their owners
   - Climate change and what role working equids play
   - Topics related to One Health and One Welfare
   - Antimicrobial and anthelmintic resistance – the roles of different actors: owners, agrovets, veterinary paraprofessionals and veterinary practitioners
   - The role of equids in disaster response

Please see examples of previous undergraduate research on our website: http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/bursary-research

Examples of recent, published research projects:


2. UK options
World Horse Welfare has four Rescue and Rehoming Centres sited in:
   - Norfolk: Hall Farm, Snetterton
   - Lancashire: Penny Farm, Blackpool
   - Somerset: Glenda Spooner Farm, Kingsdon
   - Aberdeenshire: Belwade Farm, Aboyne
The work of the Centres is to rehabilitate and rehome the 250+ suffering horses the charity rescues and admits each year. This process involves a team approach involving a number of specialists and a wide range of problems are successfully resolved. World Horse Welfare currently has over 1,900 horses, ponies and donkeys in approved and regularly checked homes. Please see: www.worldhorsewelfare.org.

We also have excellent links with Veterinary Schools and practices across the UK. Previous recipients of bursaries have carried out research into a wide variety of topics including laminitis, obesity and farriery. World Horse Welfare has also sponsored numerous research projects and we currently have ongoing work regarding a number of specific equine welfare issues.

Potential applicants can suggest topics they wish to research that are relevant to current equine welfare issues or that may benefit horses by improving knowledge of management or assessment of diseases or conditions.

The research can be undertaken anywhere in the UK and assistance at World Horse Welfare Centres is available if required.

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