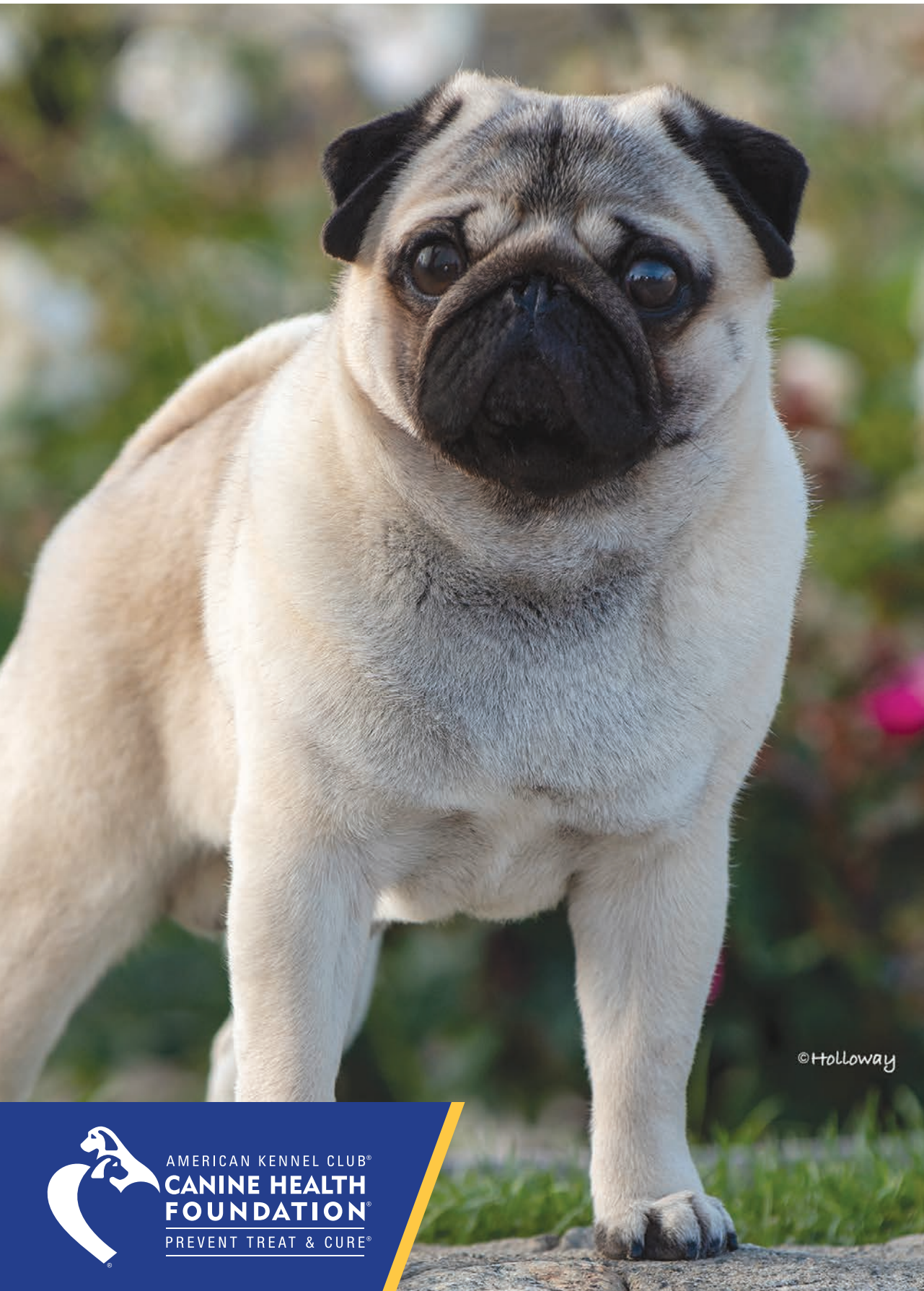


AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION  
**Annual Report**



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AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®  
**CANINE HEALTH  
FOUNDATION®**  
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®

**2021**





**Dear Canine Health Supporter:**

In 2021, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) continued to grow our programs and our commitment to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners. While the world continues to adjust to the COVID-19 pandemic, canine health research and clinical trial recruitment are rebounding to explore more accurate diagnoses, develop new treatments, and further our understanding of canine disease.

CHF awarded \$3.4 million in 50 canine health research and educational grants in 2021. We increased our commitment to One Health – a concept that recognizes the interconnected health of animals, humans, and our shared environments – with more than 40% of new funding supporting studies with One Health significance. We continued investments in the future of canine health research and veterinary medicine, awarding three new Clinician-Scientist Fellowships and supporting two new residents through the American Kennel Club/AKC Canine Health Foundation/Theriogenology Foundation Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program in 2021.

In addition to again receiving a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar in 2021, CHF also earned its fourth consecutive highest 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s premier independent charity evaluator. Only 21% of evaluated charities have received at least four consecutive 4-star evaluations, setting CHF apart from our peers and demonstrating our trustworthiness to the dog loving public.

Thanks to the strength of CHF’s programs growth, our fiscal accountability, and unwavering support from donors like you, CHF is poised to launch an aggressive plan for expansion and growth in 2022. We are grateful that the American Kennel Club recognizes the value of our mission and has provided an additional \$1 million gift in support of our enterprising efforts.

As we highlight CHF’s annual achievements in this Annual Report, we sincerely thank each of you for supporting our pursuit to prevent, treat and cure canine disease for all dogs.



J. Charles Garvin, MD, FACS  
Chairman of the Board



Darin Collins, DVM  
Chief Executive Officer

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## Mission

The Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

## Vision

Our vision is to address the health needs of all dogs across their entire lifetime by focusing on all aspects of their physical, mental, and social well-being. We embrace the One Health model as a critical tool to achieving our vision.

## Who We Are

### 2021 Board of Directors

J. Charles Garvin, MD, FACS  
*Chairman*

Mary O. Smith, BVM&S, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology)  
*Vice Chairman*

Steven Hamblin  
*Treasurer*

Ann Viklund  
*Secretary*

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Sue Copeland

Susan LaCroix Hamil

Rhonda Hovan

Wayne Jensen, DVM, PhD, MBA

Michael Knight, PhD

Karolynne McAteer

Stephanie A. Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP

John Russell

Nancy Shaw

Tina Truesdale

### 2021 Scientific Review Committee

CHF's Scientific Review Committee is responsible for the general oversight, funding, and stewardship of the grants program of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The committee's recommendations and scientific expertise are utilized by the CHF Board of Directors in determining how to best distribute available grant funds.

Stephanie A. Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP  
*Chair*

Laura Liscum, PhD  
*Vice Chair*

A. Duane Butherus, PhD

William I. Christensen, MD, MPH

J. Charles Garvin, MD, FACS

Brian Holub, DVM

Rhonda Hovan

Jerry Klein, DVM

Jane G. Owens, DVM, PhD, DACVCP

April Paulman, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Ingrid Sarelius, PhD

Mary O. Smith, BVM&S, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology)

Jamie Young, DVM, PhD, DACVP

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# Who We Are

## Staff

### EXECUTIVE

Darin Collins, DVM  
*Chief Executive Officer*

Jennifer MacLeay, MBA, DVM, PhD, DACVIM  
*Chief Scientific Officer*

Coady Egan  
*Executive Assistant*

### DEVELOPMENT

Bradford Brady  
*Director of Development*

Joan Caviness, CPA  
*Development Specialist*

### FINANCE

Katherine Brantley, MAC, CPA  
*Director of Finance*

### RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Andrea Fiumefreddo, MS  
*Vice President of Programs & Operations*

Rebekah Borgert, MS  
*Senior Programs Specialist*

Sharon M. Albright, DVM, CCRT  
*Manager of Communications & Veterinary Outreach*



Darin Collins, DVM joined the Foundation as Chief Executive Officer in October 2021. A University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign alumnus, he spent over 30 years at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, WA as a clinical veterinarian and Director of Animal Health Programs. Dr. Collins has been breeding, training, and showing sighthounds for over 50 years.

Jennifer MacLeay, MBA, DVM, PhD, DACVIM joined the Foundation as Chief Scientific Officer in September 2021. An alumnus of The Ohio State University and the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, she practiced and taught equine medicine and developed a comparative research program at Colorado State University before becoming Medical Director of Global Clinical Nutrition at Hill's Pet Nutrition. Dr. MacLeay trains and competes in agility with her Border Collie mixes.



# Our Partners



In 1995, the American Kennel Club (AKC) founded CHF to advance canine health research. The AKC's cumulative investment of over \$32 million in financial and in-kind support helps to further the mission of CHF. The AKC partners with CHF to support the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program. The AKC is a champion for dogs and canine health as demonstrated by their additional \$1 million gift to support cutting-edge canine health research and outreach to dog owners and veterinary professionals through CHF in 2022.



For over 20 years, Purina has partnered with CHF, investing more than \$14.5 million to promote canine health research. Purina sponsors CHF's biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference and also supports CHF through the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program. In addition, Purina provides the opportunity to memorialize and honor dogs, people, and organizations with a personalized brick paver that benefits CHF on the Walk of Champions or Path of Honor at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri. To learn more, visit [akcCHF.org/bricks](https://akcCHF.org/bricks).



Elanco Animal Health has generously supported CHF research and programs on numerous canine health topics including dermatology and allergic disease, immunology and infectious disease, oncology, and tick-borne diseases.

## Investments in Research

### Research Initiatives

Research initiatives in epilepsy, hemangiosarcoma, and tick-borne disease allow CHF to focus fundraising and research efforts on these devastating diseases that affect all dogs. Research proposals are requested and reviewed by CHF annually to ensure ongoing progress in these fields of study. 2021 funding included four new epilepsy grants, three new hemangiosarcoma grants, and four new grants to study tick-borne diseases.

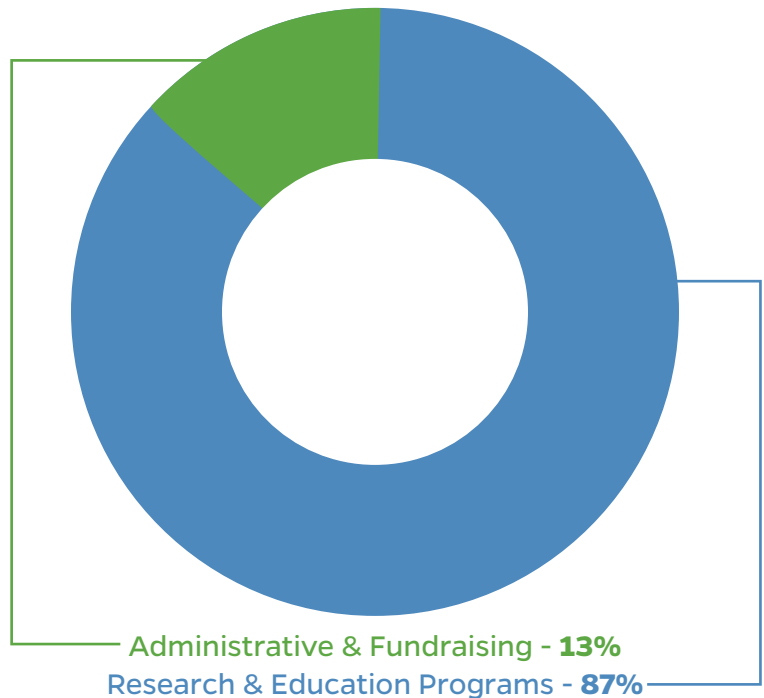
Since 1995, CHF and its donors have invested a combined total of \$8.7 million to develop more accurate diagnostics and more effective treatments for these important conditions. Learn more about these efforts and their impact at [akcCHF.org/epilepsy](https://akcCHF.org/epilepsy), [akcCHF.org/hemangiosarcoma](https://akcCHF.org/hemangiosarcoma), and [akcCHF.org/ticks](https://akcCHF.org/ticks).



# Investments in Research

Canine health is an important concern for all who breed, show, compete, care for, love, and share their lives with dogs. Each dollar given to CHF goes to work resolving the important health issues facing dogs. The Foundation's highest ratings from independent charity evaluators GuideStar and Charity Navigator demonstrate the ability to efficiently and effectively advance the health of all dogs. Investment in the highest quality science and research continues to result in findings that have clinical application for caregivers in veterinary clinics, provide critical information to breeders for healthier future litters, and provide insight into human diseases. As reflected in this report, CHF's focus and commitment remain on the research, education, and programs helping dogs and their owners live longer, healthier lives.

## EACH DOLLAR YOU GIVE GOES TO WORK FOR DOGS



Program Area	Funding (\$)	Percent of Total Funding	Number of Grants
Blood Disorders	\$116,865	3.4%	1
Cardiology	\$113,375	3.3%	2
Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program	\$36,000	1.1%	3
Dermatology and Allergic Disease	\$57,658	1.7%	1
Endocrinology	\$329,320	9.7%	3
Epilepsy	\$375,153	11.0%	4
Gastrointestinal Disease	\$158,569	4.6%	4
Immunology and Infectious Disease	\$175,277	5.1%	3
Musculoskeletal Conditions and Disease	\$38,500	1.1%	3
Neurology	\$90,000	2.6%	1
Oncology - General	\$656,773	19.2%	8
Oncology - Hemangiosarcoma	\$462,826	13.6%	3
Oncology - Lymphoma	\$291,964	8.6%	3
Ophthalmology	\$149,866	4.4%	6
Therigenology Residency Program	\$194,715	5.7%	2
Tick-Borne Disease	\$167,366	4.9%	3

**\$3.4**  
million invested

**50**  
new grants awarded

**28%**  
of new grants had a genetic component

**46%**  
of new grants had a One Health focus

**22%**  
of new grants focused on breed-specific health concerns

## Publication Highlights from CHF-Supported Projects

Through peer-reviewed publications, CHF-funded research outcomes are broadly shared with donors, researchers, veterinarians, breeders, and the dog-loving public to bring about better treatments, more accurate diagnoses, and an improved understanding of the mechanisms that cause disease. In 2021, CHF-supported investigators published 47 new peer-reviewed publications in high impact scientific and veterinary journals, contributing to the more than 900 CHF peer-reviewed publications and over 34,000 citations to date, significantly adding to the body of work helping dogs every day.

### HIP DYSPLASIA

Multiple genetic mutations associated with the risk of hip dysplasia were confirmed, including some that influence inflammation, explaining the mechanism of disease.

01828 | *BMC Genomics*  
January 2021

### LIQUID BIOPSY

Measuring circulating tumor DNA in a blood sample shows promise in diagnosing cancers such as histiocytic sarcoma and multicentric lymphoma.

02446 | *PLOS Genetics*  
April 2021

### GALLBLADDER MUCOCELE

Gallbladder mucocele is associated with urinary protein loss which should be treated appropriately to improve clinical outcomes.

01986 | *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*  
February 2021

### COGNITION

Canine social skills emerge early in development and are under strong genetic control.

02518 | *Current Biology*  
June 2021

### INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Recovery of the gut microbiome – both its composition and function – takes much longer than improvement of clinical signs in dogs with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).

01609 | *Animals*  
August 2021

### PERSONALIZED MEDICINE & CANCER

A test to detect almost 300 genetic mutations relevant to various canine cancers was developed. Results will help clinicians choose the most effective and targeted therapy for each patient.

02502 | *Veterinary and Comparative Oncology*  
July 2021

### BONE CANCER

Histotripsy, a non-invasive, focused ultrasound method, shows promise as a treatment method for canine bone cancer.

02773 | *Ultrasound in Medicine & Biology*  
August 2021

### ATOPIC DERMATITIS

Fat levels in skin and blood may be helpful to objectively diagnose atopic dermatitis in dogs.

02651 | *Metabolites*  
September 2021



# 2021 Conference

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) held its first ever *virtual* National Parent Club Canine Health Conference in August 2021. The new format allowed CHF-funded investigators to present their latest findings to a larger and more diverse audience of dog club representatives, researchers, veterinarians, students, and more. The biennial event, sponsored by Purina and supported by the AKC, included a focus on One Health - a concept recognizing that the health of people is closely connected to the health of animals and our shared environment. Lectures included a One Health approach to atopic dermatitis and environmental cancer risk in dogs and people, as well as recent outcomes for neurologic and cardiac conditions in dogs.

During the conference, Dr. Cindy Otto was presented with the 2021 Asa Mays, DVM Excellence in Canine Health Research Award. Named for Dr. Asa Mays, a member of CHF's first Board of Directors in 1995, the award is a biennial honor presented to a research investigator who demonstrates meritorious achievements in furthering the mission of identifying, characterizing, and treating canine disease and ailments. The cornerstone of Dr. Otto's CHF-funded research has been the 9/11 Medical Surveillance Study. To date, the work has produced 11 peer-reviewed publications describing the short and long-term effects of search and rescue team deployment on toxicology studies, behavior, mortality, the dog-handler relationship, and more. Findings will help us protect not only the health and safety of search and rescue dogs, but provide valuable translational information benefitting the health of human handlers and first responders.

*Thank you to Dr. Otto, her research team, and all the 9/11 search and rescue dog teams for their valuable contributions.*



2021  
**AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
NATIONAL PARENT CLUB CANINE HEALTH CONFERENCE

SPONSORED BY  
**PURINA** *Virtual*



Dr. Cindy Otto and working dog Moxie.

## 2021 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference Registrants

**51**

Canine Health  
Researchers

**214**

Breeders

**239**

AKC Parent  
Club Members  
representing  
120 Parent Clubs

**144**

Veterinarians and  
Veterinary Support  
Staff

**16**

US Veterinary  
Students and  
Therigenology  
Residents





All Photos Credit: Dr. Cindy Otto

# Educational Grants

## AKC CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program

The AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program encourages and supports the next generation of canine health researchers. Students are selected based on their promise and enthusiasm for pursuing a career in canine health research. Through these fellowships the AKC Canine Health Foundation's mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease will endure for years to come. To learn more, or to support this program, visit [akcchf.org/clinsci](http://akcchf.org/clinsci).

### Class of 2022

#### **Sarvenaz Bagheri, DVM (CHF Grant 03034-E): Washington State University**

**Mentor:** Yael Merbl, BSc, DVM, DECVN

Dr. Bagheri is this year's AKC Canine Health Foundation GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble "Rumble" Clinician-Scientist Fellow ([akcchf.org/rumble](http://akcchf.org/rumble)). A combined neurology/neurosurgery resident at Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, she is studying the effect of N-Acetylcysteine as a novel treatment for dogs with spinal cord injury.

*This fellowship is generously sponsored by owners Carolyn and Gary Koch along with breeders Kristy and Kevin Ratliff in honor of "Rumble."*



GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready to Rumble

#### **Rachel V. Brady, DVM (CHF Grant 03033-E): Colorado State University**

**Mentors:** Dawn Duval, PhD; Steven Dow, DVM, PhD, DACVIM; and Douglas Thamm, VMD, DACVIM (Oncology)

Dr. Brady is a doctoral student in the Cell and Molecular Biology Graduate Program at Colorado State University. She is studying cell models for cancers that impact both people and dogs, including diffuse large B-cell lymphoma and osteosarcoma (bone cancer), in order to identify biomarkers and potential treatment targets.

*This fellowship is generously sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).*



#### **Lopamudra Kher, BVSc&AH, MVSc, MS (CHF Grant 02924-E): University of Florida**

**Mentor:** Domenico Santoro, DVM, MS, DrSc, PhD

Dr. Kher is a doctoral candidate in the Small Animal Clinical Sciences Department of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. She is studying the effect of signaling molecules associated with canine atopic dermatitis on *S. pseudointermedius* bacteria.

*This fellowship is generously sponsored in part by the Westie Foundation of America.*



# AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program



The Theriogenology Residency Program is a collaboration between the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and the Theriogenology Foundation to increase the number of trained practitioners in companion animal theriogenology and clinical genetics.

Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction, including the physiology and pathology of male and female reproductive systems, and the clinical practice of veterinary obstetrics, gynecology, and andrology. Each two- to three-year residency program provides specialty training in all aspects of companion animal reproductive medicine and surgery, clinical genetics, as well as clinical practice related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology. To learn more, or to support this program, visit [akcchf.org/therio](http://akcchf.org/therio).

## Residents Active in 2021



**Anum Ahmed, DVM (CHF Grant 02845-E): University of Florida**

Residency Coordinator: Audrey A. Kelleman, DVM, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2021

Dr. Ahmed received her bachelor's degree in biology at the University of Central Florida. She completed her veterinary degree at Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a small animal rotating internship through BluePearl Veterinary Partners in Tampa, FL.



**Jamie Douglas, DVM (CHF Grant 02538-E): Auburn University**

Residency Coordinator: Robyn R. Wilborn, DVM, MS, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2019

Dr. Douglas received her DVM from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and her master's degree in animal science (focus: reproduction) from Southern Illinois University Carbondale's College of Agricultural Sciences in 2015.



**Alyssa Helms, DVM (CHF Grant 02390-E): Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine**

Residency Coordinator: Julie T. Cecere, DVM, MS, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2018

Dr. Helms attended the University of Tennessee for both her undergraduate degree in animal science (summa cum laude) and her veterinary degree. She has extensive experience in dog training and works with canine breeders to educate on the preservation of purpose-bred dogs and canine reproductive medicine.



**Alex Horner, DVM (CHF Grant 02668-E): Colorado State University**

Residency Coordinator: Fiona Hollinshead, BVSc, PhD, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2020

Dr. Horner completed her undergraduate degree at Mount Royal University in Canada. She earned her veterinary degree from the University of Melbourne in Australia.



**Joanna Koilpillai, BVSc & AH (CHF Grant 02666-E): Ohio State University**

Residency Coordinator: Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, DVM, PhD, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2020

Dr. Koilpillai earned her veterinary degree from Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, India. After one year in mixed animal private practice in India, she completed a small animal internship at Veterinary Healthcare Associates in Florida.



**Nicole Sugai, DVM (CHF Grant 02846-E): Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine**

Residency Coordinator: Julie T. Cecere, DVM, MS, DACT  
Residency Program Start: 2020

Dr. Sugai received her bachelor's degree in biology and evolutionary anthropology at the University of Michigan. She completed her veterinary degree, with honors, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Veterinary Medicine.

# Financial Statements

## Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2021 and 2020

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,058,709	\$2,729,193
Investments	30,625,841	26,949,264
Contributions receivable	1,576,148	275,235
Other receivables	6,760	6,286
Prepaid expenses	60,977	63,746
Fixed assets, net	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$35,328,435</u>	<u>\$30,023,724</u>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$67,328	\$32,194
Grants payable	5,026,661	4,291,424
Total liabilities	<u>\$5,093,989</u>	<u>\$4,323,618</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions		
Unrestricted	\$4,520,306	\$3,115,048
With donor restrictions		
Temporarily restricted	21,138,253	18,035,641
Permanently restricted	4,575,887	4,549,417
Total net assets	<u>\$30,234,446</u>	<u>\$25,700,106</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$35,328,435</u>	<u>\$30,023,724</u>

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc.'s financial statements, audited by Williams Overman Pierce, LLP, are available at [akcchf.org](http://akcchf.org).

## Summarized Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020

<b>Revenues and Other Support</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Contributions	\$2,834,685	\$2,595,610
Contributions from related parties	2,529,687	1,445,997
Government grant	-	100,000
Grant management income	19,202	35,621
Interest and dividend income	911,358	608,109
Net unrealized and realized investment gains	2,850,636	2,364,821
Sponsored events and conferences	151,916	1,925
In-kind donations	671,929	380,381
Grant refunds and adjustments	88,857	146,705
Miscellaneous income	2,463	2,974
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenues and other support	<u>\$10,060,733</u>	<u>\$7,682,143</u>
 <b>Expenses</b>		
Canine research and education	\$4,592,650	\$4,244,989
Fundraising	560,914	345,661
General and administrative	372,829	309,513
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	<u>\$5,526,393</u>	<u>\$4,900,163</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Increase in net assets	4,534,340	2,781,980
Net assets – beginning of year	\$25,700,106	\$22,918,126
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net assets – end of year	<u>\$30,234,446</u>	<u>\$25,700,106</u>

In 2021, AKC Canine Health Foundation earned its fourth consecutive highest four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator, and a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar. These ratings indicate that CHF exceeds industry standards for fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency, and outperforms most charities in its category.



# Contributors

## 2021 Honor Roll

The Honor Roll of donors recognizes cash contributions of \$500 or more made between January 1, 2021 and December 31, 2021. Although space prohibits the listing of all donors, we are deeply grateful to all who support CHF's mission.

### Diamond Benefactor (\$1,000,000+)

American Kennel Club

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Elanco US Inc.  
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Irish Setter Club of America  
Foundation, Inc.  
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Ms. Charlotte M. Mitchell  
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National Retriever Club, Inc.  
Ms. Beverley M. Overbaugh  
[Continued...](#)



## Donor Spotlight

Mrs. Anne H. Bowes  
Heronsway Pembroke Welsh Corgis  
AKC Herding Group Breeder of the Year, 2007

*"I joined the sport of dogs in 1968 when I purchased my first Pembroke Welsh Corgi with the intention of showing and breeding and was already totally committed to the sport when CHF was founded in 1995. I have benefited from many of CHF's programs, seminars, and National Parent Club Canine Health Conferences. I am very grateful that through my involvement with CHF, I have met many veterinary students and have had the opportunity to introduce them to purebred dog breeders and our wonderful sport. Most of all, I am proud that my contributions to CHF help fund research that benefits the health of not only purebred dogs but all dogs."*



Photo Credit: Normajeane Dee

Penn Ridge Kennel Club Charitable Foundation  
Professional Retriever Trainers Association  
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Michael and Cathy Rainer  
Mrs. Amy Rascher @  
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip E. Rutar  
Mr. and Mrs. Ethan A. Schrader, Jr.  
Margo Sensenbrenner @  
Col. and Mrs. Nathan T. Titus  
Ms. Amy Vanderryn  
Mr. and Mrs. David Vogels  
Ms. Dorothy C. Warren

### Associate (\$1,000-\$2,499)

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Robert and Barbara Amen  
Ms. Susan J. Anderson  
Apple, Inc.  
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Learn more at [akcchf.org/1995GivingCircle](https://akcchf.org/1995GivingCircle).

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