



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

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# HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter

"The peer-review process used to review research proposals helps to ensure that only quality research is supported."

-Alan Butt

*CHF supporter since 2003*

The AKC Canine Health Foundation's Heritage Society honors donors who have made a commitment to the Foundation through a planned gift.



## THE AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION: 25 YEARS OF ADVANCING CANINE HEALTH

Improving the health of dogs has always been our focus. The AKC Canine Health Foundation impacts the lives of dogs daily through supporting canine health research and educational grants, hosting conferences, and disseminating critical information through key resources and tools for the dog owner, breeder, and veterinary professional. From mapping the canine genome to research initiatives exploring common but complex diseases, we find and fund projects with the greatest potential to advance the health of all dogs. Learn more about our 25 years of success at [www.akcchf.org/25years](http://www.akcchf.org/25years).

## TYPES OF PLANNED GIFTS

• **Bequest** • Life Insurance • Retirement Plan Assets • Charitable Gift Annuity

A **bequest** is a written statement in a donor's Will or Trust directing that specific assets, such as cash, real estate, or stock, or a percentage of the donor's assets, be transferred to the AKC Canine Health Foundation at the donor's death. To customize your bequest to fit your specific interests, visit [www.akcchf.org/heritagesociety](http://www.akcchf.org/heritagesociety) to find sample language.

As with any decision involving your assets, we urge you to seek the advice of your financial advisor when considering a planned gift to the AKC Canine Health Foundation.

## INTERVIEW WITH ALAN BUTT

Alan Butt is a self-declared 'avid dog lover.' It all started when he was 12 years old and his mother brought home a German Shepherd Dog mix puppy on Christmas Eve. The dog was named Penny for the copper color in her coat and she was a beloved family companion and friend to Alan until her death thirteen years later.

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## "IF YOU LOVE DOGS, CHF IS A CHARITY DESERVING OF YOUR SUPPORT."

### An Interview with Alan Butt, Heritage Society Member Since 2019

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Since then, Alan has shared his home with several German Shepherd Dogs and each one has left him with cherished memories and touching stories. Mandy was Alan's first dog as an adult. He vividly remembers the feeling of despair when she was suspected to have degenerative myelopathy and he was told there was not much he could do to help her. Alan set out to not only help Mandy, but somehow prevent other dog owners from experiencing that same sinking feeling.

Q: How did you first learn about the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)?

A: After Mandy's death I started to research charities that I could support to help dogs with degenerative myelopathy. After donating to one that disappointed me, I came across CHF. I spoke with someone at the Foundation who told me about CHF's peer-review process for all research proposals. That, and some additional research through Charity Navigator, told me that CHF was the charity that I wanted to support.

Q: What type of planned gift have you provided to the AKC Canine Health Foundation and how was the process of setting up that gift?

A: I created my will years ago and included CHF. The process was very simple working with CHF and my lawyer.

Q: Why did you choose the AKC Canine Health Foundation as a beneficiary of your trust?

A: The peer-review process used to review research proposals helps to ensure that only quality research is supported. It's very important to me that my donations be used productively.

Q: Why is canine health research important to you?

A: CHF is funding research that can directly help dogs. I support CHF so that someday no other dog owner has to feel the sadness and hopelessness I felt the day Mandy was diagnosed with degenerative myelopathy. Thanks in part to my support, dog owners can now at least run a genetic test to help diagnose that disease. I lost Mandy and my other Shepherd, Nikki, to suspected hemangiosarcoma. I would also like to see an end to that horrible disease.

Q: What do you tell others considering a planned gift to the AKC Canine Health Foundation?

A: If you love dogs, CHF is a charity deserving of your support.



Alan Butt and Mandy

For more information about making a planned gift to benefit the AKC Canine Health Foundation, please visit [akcCHF.org/heritagesociety](https://akcCHF.org/heritagesociety) or contact Bradford Brady at [bradford.brady@akcCHF.org](mailto:bradford.brady@akcCHF.org).

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*The AKC Canine Health 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.*