

# HERITAGE SOCIETY

Newsletter



"I urge others to support CHF because if we as dog owners and breeders don't support canine health research, who will?"

-Meg Ryan

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

## "I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO FINDING ANSWERS ABOUT DISEASES THAT AFFECT ALL DOGS"

### INTERVIEW WITH MEG RYAN

Margaret Ryan, aka "Meg," had Great Danes as her first canine companions. These gentle giants filled the home with love, but as Meg began traveling more for her law career, she and her husband sought a smaller, easier to transport breed. A family friend had a Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier that Meg loved. After some trial and error and lots of research, Meg and her husband found the right breeder and added a Wheaten to their family. The breeder asked that the puppy be shown, so Meg learned more about the conformation ring and worked with several mentors as she became involved with showing and eventually breeding her own Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers.

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

*A: Thanks to my mentors I have always been interested in maintaining and improving the health of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers and dogs in general. Jackie Gottlieb invited me to serve as a Board Member on the Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Genetic Research Foundation, which worked with the AKC Canine Health Foundation. AKC Canine Health Foundation Board Member Cindy Vogels further educated me about CHF's great work and encouraged my continuing support.*

- continued on page 2 -

- continued from page 1 -

*Q: What led you to start creating your planned gift?*

A: My husband and I have no children. During our estate planning, we discussed potential beneficiaries. We are both Notre Dame alumni, so of course we decided to support our alma mater. I also wanted to support CHF since most of our time is dedicated to our school and our dogs.

*Q: How are your personal goals and priorities reflected in the beneficiaries that you selected?*

A: I want to contribute to finding answers about diseases that affect all dogs. For example, hemangiosarcoma and tick-borne diseases are deadly for all dog breeds and mixed breeds. CHF is funding great research to help us detect these diseases earlier and develop new treatments.

*Q: What excites you the most about the future of canine health research?*

A: I'm happy with the progress CHF-funded researchers have made in grappling with tick-borne disease and hemangiosarcoma. Tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease, can be a trigger for so many other health problems. I'm interested in sorting through correlation versus causation. Why do certain dogs develop disease and what can we as dog breeders and owners do to prevent it?



Meg Ryan with Katniss

## RECENT OUTCOMES FROM CHF-FUNDED RESEARCH

- Identified genetic mutations that increase the risk of histiocytic sarcoma, an aggressive cancer of white blood cells
- Studied the anti-cancer effects of CBD in several canine cancer cell lines
- Developed a test for the genetic mutation that causes dwarfism in Great Pyrenees

Learn more at [akcCHF.org/research/our-impact](https://akcCHF.org/research/our-impact).

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).

888-682-9696  
chf@akcCHF.org  
Tax ID: 13-3813813  
[www.akcCHF.org](https://www.akcCHF.org)



*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.*