



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

January 21, 2013

Dear Canine Health Researcher:

The AKC Canine Health Foundation recently changed the process for OAK grant solicitation and review to enhance the peer review process and streamline grant selection. Historically, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has used a multi-step process that included: 1) a general call for Oak pre-proposal applications from a broad list of canine health topics 2) review of pre-proposals by the CHF grant committee 3) invitation to submit full applications 4) peer review by ad hoc reviewers 5) final selection of grants to be funded by the CHF grant committee and Foundation Board of Directors.

Several changes were made for the upcoming grant cycle in order to make our review process more efficient and responsive. The new process also clearly identifies our areas of interest and increases consistency in reviewer expectations.

**The changes are:**

1. Health concerns are now grouped within Research Program Areas that reflect the specific area of study.
2. Research Program Areas contain a list of “special topics of interest” that reflect specific health concerns of CHF constituents. They are listed in order of importance to donors.
3. Currently funded grants are listed within the Program Area RFP to prevent the submission of applications that overlap with currently funded research. This list is updated monthly after Acorns are reviewed, so check on a regular basis and contact Program to make sure nothing is in the funding pipeline that overlaps with your proposed grant.
4. We no longer accept pre-proposals.
5. Because the CHF routinely receives >150 Oak applications/year, grants will now be screened based on the Abstract page by peer reviewers. Only those applications deemed to be of high impact will be moved on to full review by those same peer reviewers.
6. Reviewed grants will be discussed via teleconference and ranked by peer reviewers.
7. Grants ranked highly by peer reviewers will be selected for funding based on available funds, donor concerns and grant portfolio needs as presented to the Grants Committee and Board of Directors.

Please be aware that we use different reviewers for the different funding initiatives we support. It is advisable to determine whether you are writing to the [CHF grant committee](#) or [peer reviewers](#) so that your application can be targeted to your audience:

- Letters of Intent (LOI) are reviewed by members of the CHF grant committee and ad hoc breed club reviewers as these are usually joint ventures with substantial investments made by clubs.



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- Acorn grant applications are reviewed by the CHF grant committee.
- Oak grant applications are reviewed by peer reviewers.
- Canine Athlete, FULL Cancer Collaborative and FULL Bloat Initiative applications are reviewed by peer reviewers.

Thank you for considering the AKC Canine Health Foundation for your research funding needs. If you have any questions, please contact me or Program Manager, Samantha Wright.

Sincerely,

Shila Nordone, PhD  
Chief Scientific Officer