

THE AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION PROCESS OF OBTAINING, REVIEWING AND SELECTING GRANTS

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation (AKCCHF) has been making research and educational grants since 1995. A total of \$22 million has been allocated to support 524 grants.

The lion's share of the work done to determine what research is funded is done by the Grants Committee, which is chaired by A. Duane Butherus, PhD and staffed by Christine Haakenson, PhD. This committee consists of volunteers from the dog fancy and the research community, many of whom have advanced degrees (DVM, PhD, MD) and all of whom have extensive experience in canine health.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation awards two types of grants known as Oaks and Acorns. The Oak grants are traditional research grants and are generally pre-clinical (genetic) or clinical in nature. The Oaks annual grant making cycle begins in the fall with a survey sent to Parent Clubs requesting their top five health concerns. This information is compiled and included in the January Request for Pre-proposals, which is sent to more than 2000 investigators worldwide. Pre-proposals

are received in March and reviewed by the Grants Committee. Approximately 50 percent of Pre-proposals are then invited to submit a full application. These full applications are reviewed during the summer months by at least three peer reviewers (experts in the field addressed by the application). The Grants Committee receives these reviews, and meets to make funding recommendations, which are taken to the Board of Directors for a final decision in September.

Acorns are small grants of \$12,000 or less that are one year or less in duration. The Acorn program is designed to allow investigators to complete small, short time-frame projects, test research hypotheses, generate preliminary data for possible future Oak applications, and to encourage and assist new investigators to begin their career in veterinary health research. Acorn applications do not have a specific deadline. Decisions are made within 90 days of submission by the Grants Committee.

The AKCCHF grants review process is rigorous and stringent. We go to great lengths to guarantee that funded research is of the

highest quality and thereby ensure that the results are significant and add to the body of research which will benefit canines and ultimately humans.

Active Parent Clubs are vital to the success of CHF's ability to fund research grants. Donor advised funds support research grants for both multiple breeds and single breed health concerns. CHF thanks the Parent Clubs and all donors for their past and continuous support.

More information about past and currently funded grants can be found on our searchable website at www.akcCHF.org or you may obtain a copy of the AKC Canine Health Foundation Grants Booklet by contacting the Foundation at 888-682-9696. 🐾

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