

MEDIA KIT

2025

Advancing the Health of All Dogs
Through Knowledge and Discovery.



LEARN MORE

www.akcchf.org



Rollo, the Braveheart

**Today, innovative science
is unlocking brighter
futures for dogs and
people.**

Rollo, a 9-year-old AKC Champion Boxer and beloved family dog, was rushed to the ER in critical condition last year.

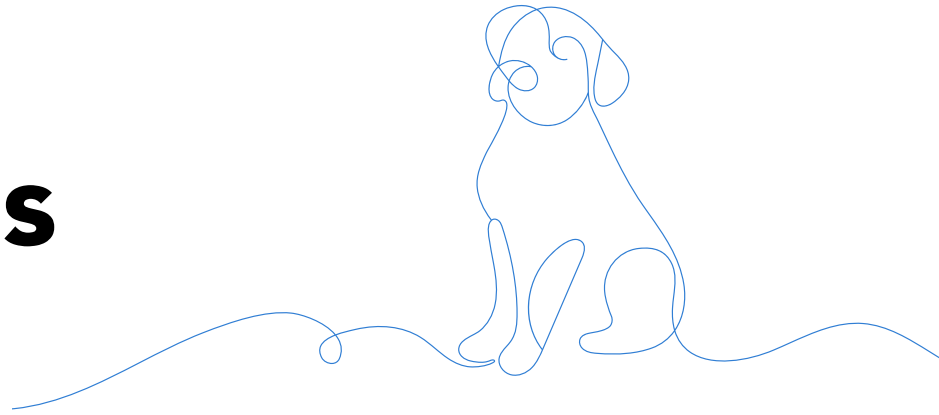
Diagnosed with hemangiosarcoma, the deadliest canine cancer, his prognosis was grim. But thanks to a CHF-funded clinical trial at Ethos Discovery, Rollo got a second chance.

Led by Dr. Chand Khanna, the trial explores precision medicine in canine cancer care, matching treatments to each dog's genetic profile. For Rollo's family, it felt like a lifeline. "That information gave us the confidence to fight for him," shared his owner, Jenette.

One-year post-diagnosis, Rollo is thriving. Cleared at his latest check-up, he's still sneaking trampoline jumps with his girls.

Rollo's journey shows the life-changing impact of science and hope, made possible by donor support.

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Our Story

A World Where All Dogs Live Healthy Vibrant Lives.

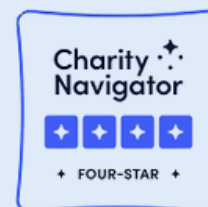
The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) was founded in 1995 with a heartfelt belief: that the dogs who give us so much joy, loyalty, and comfort deserve a future shaped by the very best of science. From the beginning, our mission has been simple and deeply personal – to improve the health of all dogs through discoveries that make a real difference in their lives and in the lives of the people who love them.

CHF brings together leading researchers, veterinarians, and dog-loving communities to tackle the diseases that touch every breed and every dog-owning family. By funding science that moves from the lab to the clinic, we support earlier diagnoses, better treatments, and new hope for conditions like cancer, epilepsy, heart disease, illnesses spread by ticks, and age-associated conditions.

Today, CHF supports 24 scientific program areas, spanning cancer, neurology, cardiology, infectious disease, sports medicine, and more. We also invest in future veterinary leaders through clinician residency tracks in sports medicine and reproductive health, empowering specialists who will turn promising science into real-world impact.

With more than \$75 million invested in canine health research, CHF has shaped many of the advances veterinarians use today. Our commitment to transparency and stewardship has earned us both Charity Navigator's four-star rating and the Candid Platinum Seal of Transparency, reflecting our responsibility to donors and the dogs we serve.

**At our core, we are driven by love.
The love people have for their dogs,
and the desire to give them every
chance at longer, healthier, more
vibrant lives.**



Learn more at www.akcchf.org

About Us

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is the world's largest funder of canine health research. Since 1995, CHF funding has resulted in more than 1,000 peer-reviewed studies, supported over 100 emerging experts, and fueled discoveries that improve the lives of millions of dogs worldwide.



Our Mission

To improve the health of all dogs through knowledge and discovery.



Our Vision

A world where all dogs live healthy, vibrant lives.



Our Values

Discovery. We are endlessly curious in pursuit of scientific discoveries that will prevent, treat, and cure disease for all dogs.

Compassion. We engage with compassion in all that we do, spreading empathy and promoting happy, healthy living.

Rigor. We adopt a rigorous approach to work, striving to exceed expectations, achieve excellence and uphold the integrity of our mission.

Connection. We believe that we are all interconnected, and by working together, we can enhance the lives of dogs and people around the world.

Character. We maintain the highest standards of integrity, authenticity, and transparency in all we do.

Your Source for Trusted Canine Health Science

When dogs' health makes headlines, reporters need credible, timely experts they can rely on. The AKC Canine Health Foundation offers access to top scientists, peer-reviewed research, and decades of data on the health topics that matter most to dog owners.

From cancer and epilepsy to aging, sports injuries, and heart disease, we can provide the context, clarity, and expert perspective you need. Reach out anytime - we're here to help you inform, educate, and elevate the conversation around canine health.



QUICK FACTS

Key Data and Research Impact

To support accurate, evidence-based reporting, this Quick Facts section summarizes core data points from the AKC Canine Health Foundation's research portfolio. These highlights reflect the scope of our scientific investment, the impact of funded studies, and the emerging trends shaping canine health. Reporters can use this section as a clear, reliable reference for stories involving veterinary science, disease research, and canine health innovation.

1 **Founded:** 1995

2 **Nonprofit Status:** 501(c)(3) public charity EIN 13-3813813

3 **Total Research Investment:** Over \$75 million in funding

4 **Grants Awarded:** More than 1,150 grants across 300+ institutions worldwide

5 **Publications:** CHF research has produced over 1,030+ peer-reviewed publications

6 **Global Impact:** 145+ research institutions funded worldwide

7 **Science Forward:** 74% of funds are directed to the frontline of research

8 **Research Workforce:** 595+ scientists supported by CHF



Program Areas

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) advances canine science through 24 distinct program areas, spanning genetics, disease prevention, diagnostics, treatment innovations, and population health. This comprehensive portfolio enables CHF to fund both foundational science and high-impact clinical studies, while also cultivating the next generation of veterinary leaders through student research programs and specialized clinician residency tracks in pathology, sports medicine, and reproduction.



Discovery Fund



Behavior



Blood Disorders



Bone Cancer



Digestive Health



Epilepsy



Eye Health



General Cancer



General Health & Wellness



Heart Health



Hemangiosarcoma



Hormonal Health



Infection & Immunity



Kidney & Bladder Health



Liver Health



Lung & Airway



Lymphoma



Muscles, Bones & Joints



Nervous System Health



Reproductive Health



Skin & Allergy



Tick-Borne Disease



Clinician-Scientist
Fellowships



Sports Medicine & Rehab
Residencies



Theriogenology
Residencies

SCIENTIFIC PRIORITIES

For 2025, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) has prioritized five scientific areas that have the greatest potential to improve dogs' health, longevity, and quality of life. These priorities are rooted in data, veterinary need, and donor impact, guide CHF's funding of cutting-edge studies, clinical trials, and translational discoveries that benefit dogs of every breed, age, and lifestyle.

Hemangiosarcoma

Hemangiosarcoma accounts for 5–7% of all canine tumors and is estimated to cause up to 300,000 deaths annually in U.S. dogs. Because this cancer is typically detected only in late stages, CHF is heavily funding biomarker research, early-diagnosis tools, and innovative therapies designed to save lives and shift outcomes.

Epilepsy

Idiopathic epilepsy is the most common neurologic condition in dogs, and up to 30% of affected dogs have seizures that remain uncontrolled despite treatment. CHF advances genetic research, seizure-prediction tools, and state-of-the-art management strategies to help veterinarians improve outcomes and support families living with this chronic condition.

Aging

As many as 68% of senior dogs show signs of cognitive decline, and the average canine lifespan is just 11.2 years. CHF invests in understanding how cognitive decline presents in dogs, developing early indicators and interventions that help dogs stay healthier, more mobile, and mentally sharp longer.

Sports Medicine & Musculoskeletal Health

Active and working dogs face significant orthopedic risk, with up to 40% sustaining injuries during their careers. CHF funds research in biomechanics, injury prevention, regenerative medicine, and rehabilitation to improve performance, safety, and long-term mobility for canine athletes and active family dogs.

Heart Disease

Heart disease affects more than 10% of dogs and remains a leading cause of illness and death across breeds. CHF supports research into genetic predispositions, early screening tools, nutritional and environmental factors, and improved therapies to help veterinarians diagnose heart conditions sooner and treat them more effectively.

LEADERSHIP

Experts Advancing the Science of Wellness

CHF's leadership team brings together scientific insight, organizational strategy, and decades of experience improving health outcomes for dogs. They guide the Foundation's research priorities and champion evidence-based solutions that benefit dogs and the people who love them.



**Stephanie Montgomery, DVM,
PhD, DACVP**
Chief Executive Officer

Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP, is the Chief Executive Officer of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), where she leads the world's largest nonprofit dedicated solely to advancing the health and wellbeing of dogs. As CEO, she sets scientific strategy, oversees a global research portfolio, and drives initiatives that translate cutting-edge discoveries into real-world improvements in veterinary care.

A veterinarian, scientist, pathologist, and former university professor, Dr. Montgomery has spent her career at the intersection of science, medicine, and public health. She previously directed pathology research services at a major medical school, taught translational medicine to scientists across the world, and contributed to more than 90 peer-reviewed publications spanning infectious disease, cancer, and biodevices.

Dr. Montgomery began her career studying viruses and later trained as a veterinarian and anatomic pathologist—experience that now shapes her vision for high-impact, evidence-based canine health research. Her background across academia, government, and the private sector equips her to speak on emerging diseases, diagnostics, translational research, and trends shaping both human and veterinary medicine.

Reporters frequently seek Dr. Montgomery's insight on: emerging canine health threats, comparative medicine, research innovations, zoonotic disease surveillance, veterinary diagnostics, and the scientific initiatives shaping the future of dog health.



Andrea Fiumefreddo
Chief Operating Officer

Andrea Fiumefreddo is the Chief Operating Officer of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), where she oversees research investments, operational strategy, and educational outreach to advance canine health worldwide. She manages the full lifecycle of CHF-funded research, leads program development, and keeps scientists, clinicians, and dog owners aligned and informed on emerging discoveries.

Andrea previously served as Director of Operations at Duke University's Human Simulation & Patient Safety Center, where she partnered with physicians and researchers on high-impact medical simulation initiatives. She holds degrees in engineering science (Smith College) and mechanical & aerospace engineering (University of Virginia), plus a Certificate in Technology Leadership.

A strong advocate for science-driven innovation, Andrea is also an active canine sports competitor and Certified Nose Work Instructor. She brings a blend of technical expertise and hands-on dog-training experience, making her a trusted source for expert insight on research, canine health, and the human–animal bond.

Looking for Expert Insight?

For media inquiries, expert input, and research connections, reach out to Trent. Trent@akcchf.org | 919-334-4029

Press Contact & Helpful Links

Quick access to everything you need to share powerful canine health stories.

To support fast, accurate reporting, we've assembled a collection of the AKC Canine Health Foundation's most useful media resources. Here you'll find direct access to everything you need to verify details, explore emerging story angles, or connect with subject-matter experts. Whether you're on deadline or developing a deeper feature, these materials are designed to help you report with clarity, confidence, and scientific accuracy.

CHF Press Contacts:

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Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP
CEO
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Quick Links to Valuable Information:

- [CHF Brand Style Guide](#): Provides guidance on logo use, naming conventions, and key language to ensure accuracy and consistency in coverage. A quick reference for getting the details right. Also provides direct links to photos and imagery to enhance storytelling.
- [2024 Impact Report](#): A yearly snapshot of CHF's progress, research outcomes, financials, and organizational reach. Offers story leads, data points, and context for understanding the Foundation's impact and community engagement.
- [2025 Grant Portfolio](#): An up-to-date look at active, funded studies across 24 scientific program areas. Ideal for identifying experts, emerging research, and trends in canine health science.
- [CHF Website](#): The most comprehensive source for information about CHF's mission, research, educational resources, and news. A reliable hub for fact-checking and deeper background.

Thank you for your interest in CHF. Together, we can help audiences better understand the discoveries improving the lives of dogs everywhere.

Together, we can create a world where
all dogs live healthy, vibrant lives.

