

AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Annual Report

2018



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®
SINCE 1995



Dear Fellow Canine Health Supporter:

Greetings on behalf of the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Board of Directors and Staff. This Annual Report reviews our successes in 2018, demonstrating the hard work and fiduciary responsibility that resulted in continued growth in our programs and substantial progress toward our shared vision of a healthier future for all dogs. Thanks to the collaboration and support from our donors, we were able to award \$2.7 million in 39 new grants across 18 different research program areas, including tick-borne diseases, epilepsy, ophthalmology, canine cancer, and diseases that impact both dogs and humans. This represents a strong 37% growth in programs funding over 2017. Demonstrating the relevance and impact of our investments in canine health research, our funded investigators have now published more than 700 peer-reviewed scientific articles supported by CHF funding.

Always looking to the future, CHF’s Clinician-Scientist Fellowships were awarded to five promising young researchers in 2018. With our partners at the American Kennel Club (AKC) and the Theriogenology Foundation (TF), the AKC/AKC CHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program continues to fulfil its purpose to train the next generation of companion animal reproductive specialists, providing essential services to breeders, care for purpose-bred dogs, support for appropriate genetic health testing, and outreach to veterinary students and veterinarians.

With the enthusiastic support of our dedicated partners and donors, each of the matched fund opportunities from the AKC, Golden Retriever Foundation, Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation, and American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation were met. Our donors also generously contributed nearly \$500,000 in financial support for the CHF Hemangiosarcoma Research Initiative allowing us to provide much-needed research funding for this critical disease.

Earning the trust of our donors comes from steadfast fiscal responsibility and dedication to meet CHF’s Mission to advance the health of all dogs and their people. This was especially evident in 2018 when CHF earned Charity Navigator’s ultimate four-star recognition and GuideStar’s Platinum Seal of Transparency.

As we celebrate these successes, we also remember there is much more we must do to tackle the maladies that impact the dogs who are such an important part of our lives. With the continued support of our founding partner—the AKC, and Nestlé Purina, Elanco Animal Health, dog clubs, and supporters like you, CHF remains committed to find and fund high-quality canine health research and educational grants to improve the health of future generations of dogs. We thank all of you, our volunteers and donors who help make us the leading organization working to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

J. Charles Garvin, MD, FACS
Chairman of the Board

Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP
Chief Executive Officer/Chief Scientific Officer

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Who We Are

Mission

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.

Vision

Our vision is to address the health needs of all dogs across their entire lifetime by focusing on all aspects of their physical, mental, and social well-being. We embrace the One Health model as a critical tool to achieving our vision.



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Alison MacLennan
Accounting Specialist

RESEARCH PROGRAMS

Andrea Fiumefreddo, MS
Director of Programs

Rebekah Borgert, MS
Programs Specialist

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Our Partners



In 1995, the American Kennel Club (AKC) founded CHF to advance canine health research. The AKC's cumulative investment of nearly \$27 million in financial and in-kind support helps to further the mission of CHF. The AKC partners with CHF to support the AKC/AKC CHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program (see page 8). In 2018, the AKC again matched donations through CHF's Hemangiosarcoma Research Initiative, CHOICE (Canine Health Opportunity to Impact CarE) Program, and for new and lapsed donors providing funds for canine health research. The AKC is truly a champion for dogs and canine health.



For 20 years, Nestlé Purina PetCare Company has partnered with CHF, investing more than \$14 million to promote canine health research. Purina sponsors CHF's biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference in St. Louis, Missouri and also supports CHF through the Purina Parent Club Partnership Program. In addition, Purina provides the opportunity to memorialize and honor dogs, people, and organizations with a personalized brick paver that benefits CHF on the Walk of Champions or Path of Honor at the Purina Event Center in Gray Summit, Missouri. To learn more, visit akcchf.org/bricks.



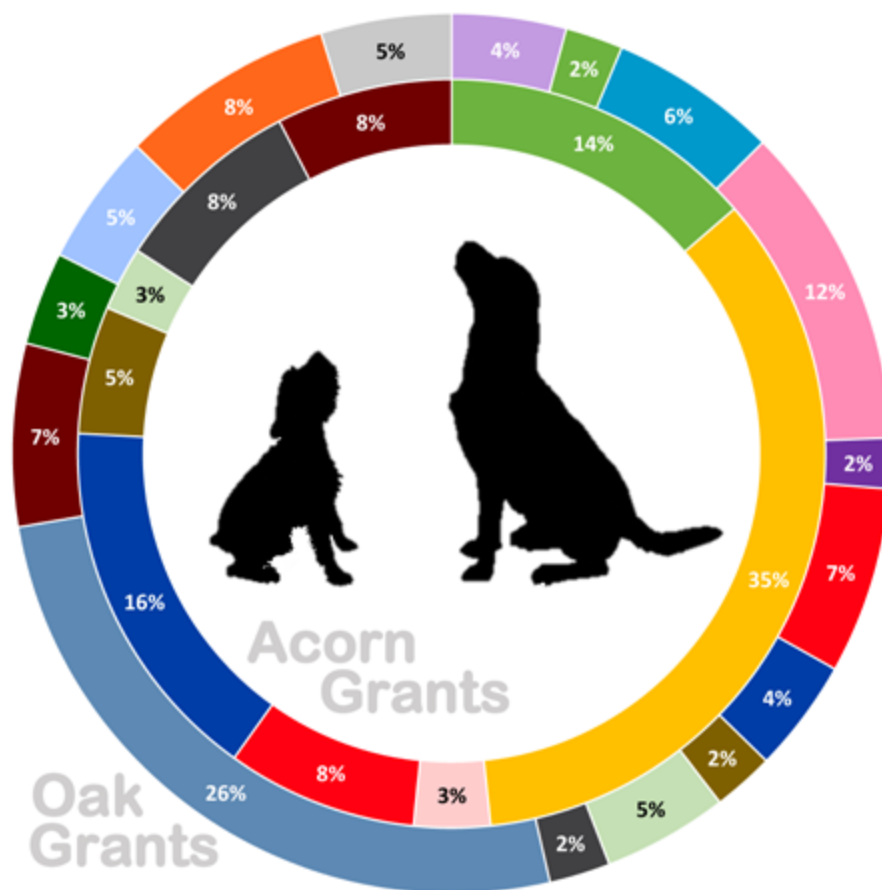
CHF welcomed Elanco as an organizational partner in 2017. Elanco is committed to canine health research in the areas of disease prevention and therapeutics. Elanco also supports educational outreach through session sponsorship for CHF's biennial National Parent Club Canine Health Conference. Their vision to develop innovative solutions that help pets live longer and healthier lives contributes to this productive collaboration.



Photo Credit: Joanne Simoneau

AKC Canine Health Foundation

2018 Research & Educational Grants by Program Area



- Behavior
- Cardiology
- Epilepsy
- Gastrointestinal Disease
- Immunology and Infectious Disease
- Lung and Respiratory Disease
- Oncology - General
- Oncology - Lymphoma
- Therigenology Residency Program

- Blood Disease
- Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program
- Endocrinology
- General Canine Health and Obesity
- Kidney and Urological Disease
- Neurology
- Oncology - Hemangiosarcoma
- Ophthalmology
- Tick-Borne Disease

Grants include pilot studies or Acorn Grants (award amount \leq \$15,000) and Oak Grants (award amount $>$ \$15,000.)

Research Initiatives

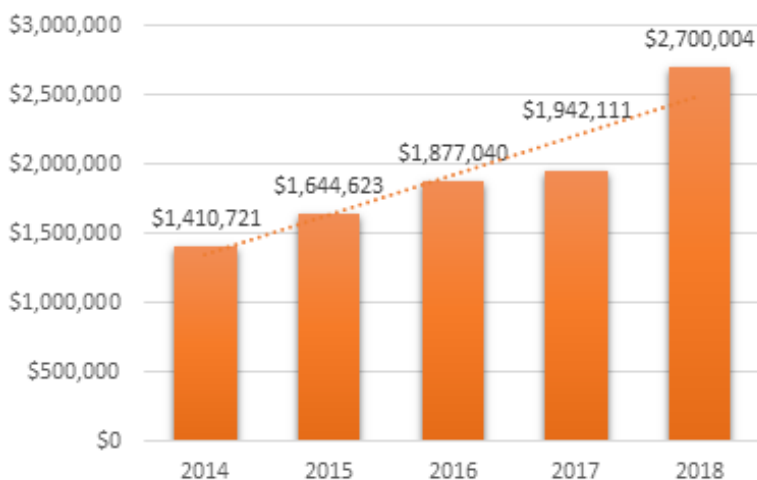
Focused research initiatives allow CHF to target fundraising and research funding on the highest priority diseases in all dogs and across all dog breeds. In 2018, seeking breakthroughs and new diagnostics, preventives and treatments, CHF and our donors tackled hemangiosarcoma, tick-borne diseases, epilepsy, and much more (akcCHF.org/research). Thanks to the support of many dog clubs, foundations, and individuals, progress continues across the following active research initiatives:

Hemangiosarcoma Research Initiative — CHF, along with our donors, is investing in understanding underlying causes, new targets for treatment, and early diagnostics for canine hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive cancer in dogs. Almost \$1 million in currently active research is specifically addressing hemangiosarcoma through this initiative (akcCHF.org/hemangiosarcoma).

Tick-Borne Disease Research Initiative — Launched in 2016, CHF has invested over \$650,000 in tick-borne disease research (akcCHF.org/ticks). Current grants explore better methods to detect tick-borne diseases, recognize new pathogens, and accurately test for exposure and disease. Research outcomes already include discovery of the prevalence of pathogens in tick populations across regions of the US and in dogs with immune-mediated disease.

Epilepsy Research Initiative — The CHF Epilepsy Research Initiative addresses the most common neurological condition of dogs. CHF and our donors have invested more than \$750,000 towards this research since 2016 (akcCHF.org/epilepsy). Research outcomes include the discovery of a new gene and an emergency epilepsy treatment. Additional research continues to seek solutions to drug-resistant epilepsy through examination of the gut microbiome, use of cannabidiol as adjunct therapy, and exploration of underlying genetics and disease mechanisms.

Growth in Research Grant Funding



**Since 2014,
AKC Canine Health Foundation
has nearly doubled
research grant funding,
with \$2.7 million in 39
grants awarded in 2018.**



2018 Publications Highlights from CHF-Supported Projects

Through peer-reviewed publications, CHF-funded research outcomes are broadly shared with our donors, researchers, veterinarians, breeders, and the dog-loving public to bring about better treatments, more accurate diagnoses, and an improved understanding of the mechanisms that cause disease. In 2018, CHF-supported investigators published 41 new peer-reviewed publications, contributing to the 738 CHF peer-reviewed publications to date. This total body of work has been cited more than 26,000 times in other research.

Comparative Oncology — [AKC CHF Grant #02455-A—Identification of Genetic Mutations in Anal Sac Carcinoma in English Cocker Spaniels](#)

Researchers identified molecular characteristics of canine colorectal tumors to help classify and subtype colon cancer in humans and dogs and developed a software program to identify small somatic copy number alterations (CNA) to elucidate cancer-related functions.

(Wang et al., 2018) [DOI 10.3390/cancers10090330](#)

(Zhangetal., 2018) [DOI10.1016/j.csbj.2018.09.001](#)

Endocrinology — [AKC CHF Grant #02138—Development of Accurate Diagnostic Tests for Canine Hypothyroidism](#)

New methods published improve diagnostic accuracy and distinguish between hypothyroidism and nonthyroidal illness in dogs.

(Pijnacker et al., 2018) [DOI 10.1111/jvim.15139](#)

Epilepsy — [AKC CHF Grant #02252—Investigating a Ketogenic Medium-Chain Triglyceride \(MCT\) Supplement for the Treatment of Drug-Resistant Canine Idiopathic Epilepsy and Its Behavioral Comorbidities](#)

Use of dietary supplements such as medium-chain triglyceride (MCT) oil are reported in dogs with idiopathic epilepsy to decrease seizure frequency and severity.

(Berk et al. 2018) [10.1016/j.rvsc.2018.07.004](#)

Oncology — [AKC CHF Grant #02204-T—Using Enhanced Imaging to Evaluate Tumor Margins for Canine Mammary Cancer and Soft Tissue Sarcoma](#)

The use of optical coherence tomography (OCT), a promising technology in human breast cancer clinical trials, allows for a rapid, non-invasive assessment of tumor excision margins in canine soft-tissue sarcomas and mammary cancer.

(Selmic et al. 2018) [DOI 10.1111/vco.12448](#)

2018 Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program — [AKC CHF Grant #02527-E—University of California, Davis](#)

Data suggest macrophage recruitment and activation may be a promising immunotherapeutic strategy for canine osteosarcoma, improving survival rates for this highly metastatic cancer. A proprietary formulation of curcumin showed early promise in treating canine cancer.

(Withers et al., 2018). [DOI 10.1111/vco.12444](#)

(Withers et al., 2018). [DOI 10.1111/vco.12424](#)

Dermatology & Allergic Disease — [AKC CHF Grant #01421-E—Genomic Resources for the Control of Canine Pyoderma](#)

Population genetics and clonal complexes of *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius*, a known pyoderma pathogen, describe the emergence of new clonal populations of multi-drug and Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus pseudintermedius* (MRSP).

(Videla et al., 2018) [DOI 101089/mdr.2016.0250](#)

Kidney & Urological Disease — [AKC CHF Grant #01658—Early Detection of Chronic Kidney Disease to Prevent Kidney Damage](#)

The detection of glomerular and tubulointerstitial damage in dogs with proteinuric chronic kidney disease can be improved using urine protein banding patterns.

(Hokamp et al. 2018) [DOI: 10.1111/vcp.12648](#)

Behavior — [AKC CHF Grant #01995—Understanding the Flexibility and Limitations of How Dogs Acquire Knowledge and Understanding: Application to Service Dog Emotional Health and Selection](#)

Individual differences in dog cognition can be used to improve the selection process of assistance and explosive detection dogs and shed light on factors that contribute to working dog success.

(MacLean and Hare, 2018) [DOI 10.3389/fvets.2018.00236](#)

Oncology - Lymphoma — [AKC CHF Grant #02315-A—Discovering Peptide Targets for Development of Adoptive Cell Therapy for Peripheral T-Cell Lymphoma](#)

Canine tumor immunologists have a new tool to predict which amino acid sequences to include in a personalized vaccine against T-cell lymphoma in dogs, and included these datasets in the NIAID Immune Epitope Database to aid global advancement in cancer immunology.

(Nemec et al. 2018) [DOI: 10.1111/tan.13398](#)

Educational Grants

AKC CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program

The AKC Canine Health Foundation Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program encourages and supports the next generation of canine health researchers. Students are selected based on their promise and enthusiasm for pursuing a career in canine health research. Through these fellowships the AKC Canine Health Foundation's mission to prevent, treat and cure canine disease will endure for years to come.

Class of 2019



Ana Costa, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVIM; Washington State University

Mentors: Michael H. Court, BVSc, PhD, Diplomate ACVA; Katrina L. Mealey, DVM, PhD; and Nicolas Villarino, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVP

Dr. Costa received her DVM from Escola Universitária Vasco Da Gama in Portugal. Her work focuses on the *in vitro* impact of uremic toxins on drug binding to albumin. Since these conditions mimic canine chronic renal failure, results may lead to improved management and care of compromised patients.



Shelby Gasson, DVM; Texas A&M University

Mentor: W. Brian Saunders, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVS

Dr. Gasson received her DVM from Texas A&M University. She is continuing her work as the AKC Canine Health Foundation GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble "Rumble" Clinician-Scientist Fellow (akcchf.org/rumble). Dr. Gasson's work focuses on the development of tissue engineering constructs for treatment of osteochondral (joint) defects. *This fellowship is generously sponsored by Rumble's owners, Carolyn and Gary Koch, breeders Kristy and Kevin Ratliff, and handler Esteban Farias.*



GCHP Hill Country's
Let's Get Ready To Rumble



Mariah Gentry, DVM; University of Pennsylvania

Mentor: Margret L. Casal, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ECAR

Dr. Gentry received her DVM from Cornell University. Her work focuses on the heritability of renal dysplasia in Cairn Terriers and she aims to develop a DNA-based marker test, so the disorder can be diagnosed at an early age.

This fellowship is generously sponsored by the Foundation of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.



Sarah Murphy; Clemson University

Mentor: Leigh Anne Clark, PhD

Ms. Murphy is a PhD candidate at Clemson University. Her work focuses on the genetics of congenital idiopathic megaesophagus (CIM) in German Shepherd Dogs and Great Danes. The goal of her study is to develop a genomic prediction tool to help breeders plan matings that will not produce CIM.

This fellowship is generously sponsored by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals.



Caroline Wood, DVM, PhD; University of Minnesota

Mentor: Jaime Modiano, VMD, PhD

Dr. Wood received her DVM and PhD from the University of Minnesota. Her research aims to define the unique DNA methylation patterns for specific dog lymphocyte subsets found in osteosarcoma (bone) tumors in dogs to aid discovery of new treatments.

This fellowship is generously sponsored by the American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation.

**To learn about
Clinician-Scientist Fellowship sponsorship opportunities,
please visit akcchf.org/fellows or
contact us at chfgrants@akcchf.org.**

AKC/AKC CHF/TF Theriogenology Residency Program



The Theriogenology Residency Program is a collaboration between the American Kennel Club, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and the Theriogenology Foundation to increase the number of trained practitioners in companion animal theriogenology and clinical genetics.

Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction, including the physiology and pathology of male and female reproductive systems, and the clinical practice of veterinary obstetrics, gynecology, and andrology. The two-to-three-year residency program provides specialty training in all aspects of companion animal reproductive medicine and surgery, clinical genetics, as well as clinical practice related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology. To learn more, or to support this program, visit akcchf.org/research/therioresidency.

Residents Active in 2018



Carla Barstow, DVM: Auburn University

Residency Coordinator: Robyn R. Wilborn, DVM, MS; Auburn University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2018

Dr. Carla Barstow has been showing and breeding Samoyeds for over 20 years. She completed her residency in 2018, gaining board certification in theriogenology, and is now in theriogenology practice in Florida.

Publication: Barstow, C., Wilborn, R. R., & Johnson, A. K. (2018). Breeding Soundness Examination of the Bitch. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract*, 48(4), 547-566. <https://doi.org/10.1016/J.CVSM.2018.02.004>



Tessa Fiamengo, DVM: Ohio State University

Residency Coordinator: Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, DVM, PhD; Ohio State University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2018

Dr. Tessa Fiamengo graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a major in Biology and minors in Biomedical Sciences and Philosophy. She earned her DVM degree from Oregon State University. She continues her graduate research work in theriogenology at Ohio State University.



Alyssa Helms, DVM: Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Residency Coordinator: Julie T. Cecere, DVM, MS, DACT; Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Total Grant Amount: \$99,036; Grant Period: 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2021

Dr. Alyssa Helms attended the University of Tennessee for both her undergraduate degree in animal science (summa cum laude) and her veterinary degree. She has extensive experience in dog training and works with canine breeders to educate on the preservation of purpose-bred dogs and canine reproductive medicine.



Victor Stora, DVM: University of Pennsylvania

Residency Coordinator: Margret L. Casal, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ECAR; University of Pennsylvania

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2018

Dr. Victor Stora, a Shetland Sheepdog breeder, completed his residency in 2018 and gained board certification in theriogenology.



Karen Von Dollen, DVM: North Carolina State University

Residency Coordinator: Scott Bailey, DVM, MS; North Carolina State University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2016- 6/30/2019

Dr. Karen Von Dollen attended Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and earned her DVM degree from the University of California, Davis. She completed her board certification in theriogenology in 2018 and is completing a master's degree on canine pyometra research concurrent with the residency.



Kate Withowski, DVM: North Carolina State University

Residency Coordinator: C. Scott Bailey, DVM, MS; North Carolina State University

Total Grant Amount: \$100,000; Grant Period: 7/1/2018 - 6/30/2021

Dr. Kate Withowski completed her veterinary degree at St. George's University School of Veterinary Medicine after receiving her bachelor of arts from Stony Brook University. Dr. Withowski completed a theriogenology internship at the University of Georgia prior to starting her residency. She breeds and competes with Weimaraners.

Financial Statements

Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2018, and 2017

Assets	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,040,794	\$2,869,411
Investments	14,555,379	13,784,613
Receivable for proceeds from sale of investments	—	2,888
Contributions receivable	186,263	1,001,941
Other receivables	22,368	2,682
Prepaid expenses	67,028	67,058
Fixed assets, net	<u>27,791</u>	<u>43,645</u>
Total assets	<u>\$16,899,623</u>	<u>\$17,772,238</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$52,665	\$40,725
Grants payable	<u>3,813,758</u>	<u>3,698,333</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$3,866,423</u>	<u>\$3,739,058</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions		
Unrestricted	\$1,473,907	\$1,954,498
With donor restrictions		
Temporarily restricted	7,551,841	8,071,230
Permanently restricted	<u>4,007,452</u>	<u>4,007,452</u>
Total net assets	<u>\$13,033,200</u>	<u>\$14,033,180</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$16,899,623</u>	<u>\$17,772,238</u>

The American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc.'s financial statements, audited by Williams, Overman & Pierce, LLP, are available at akcchf.org.

Summarized Statements of Activities

Years ended December 31, 2018, and 2017

Revenues and Other Support	2018	2017
Contributions	\$1,801,044	\$1,659,103
Contributions from related parties	1,758,536	1,373,357
Grant management income	14,908	35,361
Interest and dividend income	561,869	397,459
Net unrealized and realized investment (losses) gains	(1,286,956)	823,751
Sponsored events and conferences	107,135	108,761
In-kind donations	498,266	374,677
Miscellaneous income	<u>25</u>	<u>14,944</u>
Total revenues and other support	\$3,454,827	\$4,787,413
Expenses		
Canine research and education	\$3,519,686	\$2,730,206
Fundraising	445,507	365,131
General and administrative	<u>489,614</u>	<u>393,432</u>
Total expenses	<u>\$4,454,807</u>	<u>\$3,488,769</u>
Increase in net assets	(999,980)	1,298,644
Net assets – beginning of year	<u>\$14,033,180</u>	<u>\$12,734,536</u>
Net assets – end of year	<u><u>\$13,033,200</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,033,180</u></u>

*In 2018, AKC Canine Health Foundation earned a **four-star rating** from **Charity Navigator**, America's largest independent charity evaluator, and a **Platinum Seal of Transparency** from **GuideStar**. These ratings indicate that CHF exceeds industry standards for fiscal responsibility, accountability, and transparency and outperforms most charities in its category.*



Contributors

2018 Honor Roll

The Honor Roll of donors recognizes cash contributions of \$500 or more made between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018.

Space prohibits us from listing all donors; we are deeply grateful to all who support the CHF mission.

DIAMOND BENEFACTOR (\$1,000,000 +)

American Kennel Club

BUILDER (\$100,000 - \$499,999)

American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Inc.
American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Elanco US Inc.
Golden Retriever Foundation
Nestlé Purina PetCare Company

CHAMPION (\$50,000 - \$99,999)

Collie Health Foundation
Irish Setter Club of America Foundation, Inc.
Orthopedic Foundation for Animals
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Flat-Coated Retriever Foundation
Leonberger Health Foundation
Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust
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Scottish Terrier Club of America Health Trust Fund
V Foundation for Cancer Research
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English Springer Spaniel Foundation
Galen and Carma Ewer
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Gordon Setter Club of America
Grand Rapids Kennel Club
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Ms. Lucy A. Heyman
Ms. Joann M. Hickson
Ms. Karen C. Hinchy
Mr. John E. Hoffman
Holland Michigan Kennel Club
Mrs. Theodora W. Hooton

Donor Spotlight

Pam and Randy Foster

"We support the AKC Canine Health Foundation because all their research is dedicated to the health and well-being of dogs throughout their entire life. Our dogs have made us laugh on a bad day, brought us comfort on a sad day, and exhibited love and a zest for life every day until their last day. Our hope is that more dog lovers will donate to CHF, enabling canine health research to continue until cures are found—saving both humans and dogs from disease."



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