

AKC CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Annual Report



2020



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



Dear Canine Health Supporter:

2020 was a year like no other, but thanks to a solid financial footing and the dedication of our staff and funded researchers, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) was able to continue our important work searching for more accurate diagnostics and more effective treatments to prevent, treat and cure canine disease. Celebrating the Foundation’s 25th anniversary while at home during the pandemic reinforced the importance of the human animal bond and investing in the health of our families and dogs.

CHF awarded \$3.29 million for 53 new grants covering each of our 23 research program areas in 2020. Our educational grant programs continue to thrive, encouraging new canine health researchers and ensuring trained specialists in canine reproduction and clinical genetics to care for the health needs of current and future generations of dogs. In collaboration with the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), we published a *Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing* as a resource for breeders, owners, and veterinary professionals to understand the proper use and limitations of canine genetic testing. Our veterinary outreach expanded, with dedicated web content and the *Clinical Corner* newsletter delivering clinically relevant research results directly to the professionals who care for our dogs.

All of this work would not be possible without the dedication and generosity of supporters like you. We thank the American German Shepherd Dog Charitable Foundation for completing their three-year, \$100,000 pledge to match donations to CHF’s Hemangiosarcoma Research Initiative. Thirty-two clubs also demonstrated their commitment to advancing canine health through participation in our 25th Anniversary Donor Advised Fund Challenge. Finally, CHF’s Board of Directors unanimously offered matching funds for donations to our 25th Anniversary Endowment Fund Campaign.

In 2020, CHF again earned Charity Navigator’s highest four-star rating and received a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, demonstrating that we exceed industry standards for financial responsibility. As we highlight the Foundation’s annual achievements in this 25th anniversary report, the Board of Directors and staff thank you for your support during these challenging times and invite you to join us as we continue our work to advance the health of all dogs.

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



Calvin B. Carpenter,
DVM, MBA, DACLAM
Executive Director

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2020 Scientific Review Committee

CHF's Scientific Review Committee is responsible for the general oversight, funding, and stewardship of the grants program of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The committee's recommendations and scientific expertise are utilized by the CHF Board of Directors in determining how to best distribute the available grant funds.

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Mission

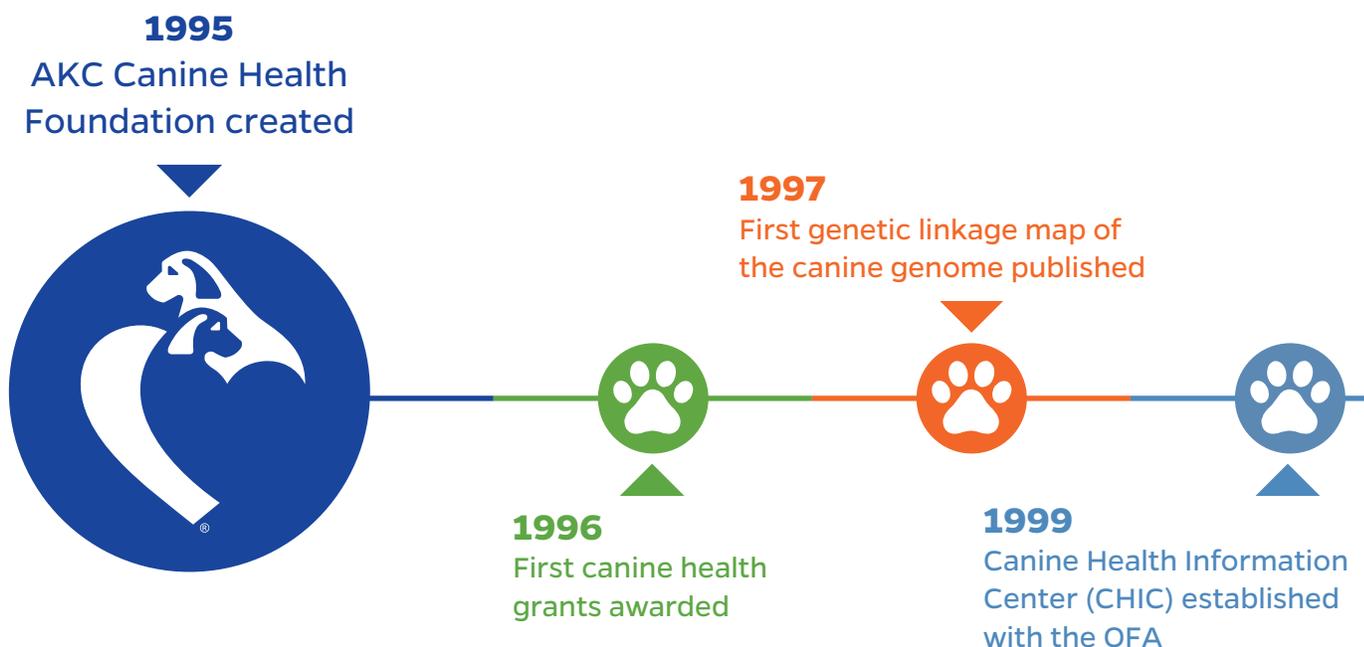
The Foundation is dedicated to advancing the health of all dogs and their owners by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

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.

Our 25th Anniversary

In 2020, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) celebrated its 25th anniversary. Founded by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1995 as an independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to focus on research specifically for canine health, CHF has invested more than \$59 million in research and educational grants and canine health projects. From mapping the canine genome to research initiatives exploring common but complex diseases such as cancer, bloat, epilepsy, and tick-borne disease, CHF has made great strides in addressing the health needs of all dogs. Thank you to the AKC, Purina, our corporate partners, AKC parent clubs, funded researchers, and every supporter that has contributed to achieving our mission!



Our Partners



In 1995, the American Kennel Club (AKC) founded CHF to advance canine health research. The AKC's cumulative investment of over \$29 million in financial and in-kind support helps to further the mission of CHF. The AKC partners with CHF to support the AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program. The AKC is a champion for dogs and canine health.



For over 20 years, Purina 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.



Elanco Animal Health has generously supported CHF research and programs on numerous canine health topics including dermatology and allergic disease, immunology and infectious disease, oncology, and tick-borne diseases.

2003

Purina Parent Club Partnership Program started



2016

Collaborated on the Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program and the Comparative Brain Tumor Consortium



2020

1,000th grant awarded during 25th anniversary year



2012

Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program started



2018

Surpassed \$50 million in funding



Investments in Research

\$3.29
million invested

53
new grants awarded

24%
of new grants had a genetic component

36%
of new grants had a One Health focus

17%
of new grants focused on breed-specific health concerns

Program Area	Funding (\$)	Percent of Total Funding	Number of Grants
Behavior	\$107,880	3.3%	1
Blood Disorders	\$98,404	3.0%	1
Cardiology	\$115,474	3.5%	1
Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program	\$36,000	1.1%	3
Dermatology and Allergic Disease	\$219,552	6.7%	4
Endocrinology	\$13,792	0.4%	1
Epilepsy	\$14,555	0.4%	1
Gastrointestinal Disease	\$78,692	2.4%	3
General Canine Health	\$327,838	10.0%	6
Hepatic Disease	\$15,000	0.5%	1
Immunology and Infectious Disease	\$227,800	6.9%	3
Kidney and Urological Disease	\$36,182	1.1%	1
Lung and Respiratory Disease	\$112,630	3.4%	3
Musculoskeletal Conditions and Disease	\$20,439	0.6%	2
Neurology	\$172,611	5.2%	4
Oncology - General	\$340,346	10.3%	4
Oncology - Hemangiosarcoma	\$434,238	13.2%	3
Oncology - Lymphoma	\$105,176	3.2%	3
Oncology - Osteosarcoma	\$292,298	8.9%	3
Ophthalmology	\$116,640	3.5%	1
Reproductive Conditions and Disease	\$47,342	1.4%	1
Theriogenology Residency Program	\$199,965	6.1%	2
Tick-Borne Disease	\$160,677	4.9%	1



Publication Highlights from CHF-Supported Projects

Through peer-reviewed publications, CHF-funded research outcomes are broadly shared with 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 2020, CHF-supported investigators published 59 new peer-reviewed publications in high impact scientific and veterinary journals, contributing to the 854 CHF peer-reviewed publications and over 34,000 citations to date.

GENETICS OF BLOAT

27 genetic mutations associated with the risk of bloat were identified.
[01937-B | *Genes* November 2020](#)

EPILEPSY TREATMENT

Dietary supplementation with medium-chain triglyceride oil helps decrease seizure frequency and improves cognition in dogs with idiopathic epilepsy.
[02252 | *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* April 2020](#) and [Epilepsy & Behavior November 2020](#)

SPAY/NEUTER RECOMMENDATIONS

Data-based recommendations were provided for 35 different breeds regarding the best age to spay/neuter in order to avoid an increased risk of some joint disorders and cancers.
[02275 | *Frontiers in Veterinary Science* July 2020](#)

LYMPHOMA RISK

Exposure to environmental chemicals and industrial waste (such as living near nuclear power plants, chemical suppliers, and crematoria) contributes to lymphoma risk in dogs.
[02318 | *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine* July 2020](#)

HEALTH EFFECTS IN SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS

The long-term risk of adverse health effects in search and rescue dogs deployed following 9/11 was low.
[02322 | *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* October 2020](#)

HEARTWORM RESISTANCE

Heartworms vary in the biochemical processes they use to develop resistance to commonly used preventatives.
[02458-A | *PLOS ONE* August 2020](#)

COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT

Canine cognitive traits develop relatively early in life and are stable over time.
[02518 | *Animal Cognition* October 2020](#)

BARTONELLA AND HEMANGIOSARCOMA

Bartonella DNA (an intracellular bacteria) was found in 73% of tissue samples from dogs with hemangiosarcoma, indicating a role for infection in cancer development.
[02519 | *PLOS ONE* January 2020](#)

ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS

A genetic mutation that causes abnormal drug metabolism in Greyhounds and several other popular dog breeds was discovered.
[02529 | *Scientific Reports* January 2020](#)

GOLDEN RETRIEVER PIGMENTARY UVEITIS

Diagnostic criteria for Golden Retriever Pigmentary Uveitis, a breed-specific inflammatory eye disease, have been established allowing consistent clinical diagnosis and management.
[02569-MOU | *Veterinary Ophthalmology* July 2020](#)

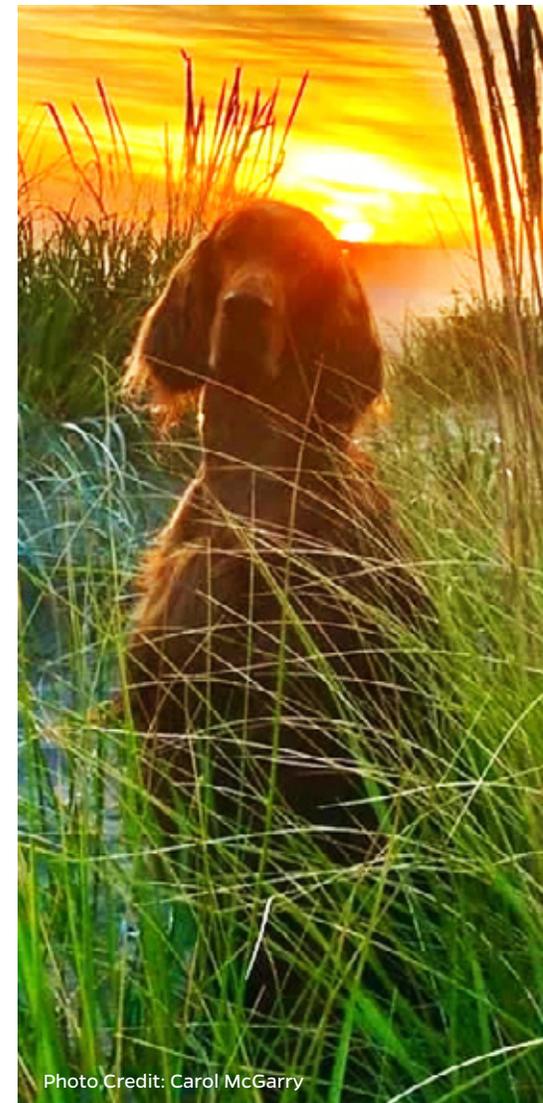


Photo Credit: Carol McGarry

Our Impact

Accomplishments & Initiatives

GENETIC TESTING RESOURCE

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) collaborated to publish a *Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing* in dogs in September 2020. This downloadable resource reviews the basic principles necessary to practically and thoughtfully apply genetic test results to the care of all dogs, including breeding stock. The types of genetic tests currently in use, their application in breeding programs, and their limitations are discussed, as well as potential negative effects of the misuse of test results in both pet and breeding dogs.

This project was partially funded through CHF's Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program, allowing co-author Dr. Liza Gershony to work with her mentor and CHF-funded researcher, Dr. Anita Oberbauer, at the University of California, Davis. The resource is accompanied by a video presentation and supporting articles by key stakeholders from the OFA, American Kennel Club, CHF, National Animal Interest Alliance, and the research and breeder communities.

Readers are encouraged to share the resource among their clubs, clients, and veterinary teams to help everyone involved in caring for dogs better understand the value, use, and limitations of genetic testing today. Visit akcCHF.org/geneticswhitepaper2020 for more information.

VETERINARY OUTREACH

The AKC Canine Health Foundation works to share our funded discoveries with practicing veterinary professionals, allowing the latest breakthroughs in canine health research to benefit patients today and into the future. In 2020, our veterinary outreach efforts included the addition of a dedicated web page "For Veterinary Professionals" at akcCHF.org/veterinary. Here, veterinary teams can easily find information on genetic testing resources, search for CHF-funded studies actively recruiting participants, access educational resources such as webinars and infectious disease handouts, and browse summaries of CHF-supported publications relevant to clinical practice. We also launched the *Clinical Corner* newsletter, providing many of the above resources directly to the inbox of practicing veterinary professionals. Ongoing veterinary outreach programs are essential to achieve our mission of disseminating health information to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.

RESEARCH INITIATIVES

Research initiatives in epilepsy, hemangiosarcoma, and tick-borne disease allow CHF to focus fundraising and research efforts on these devastating diseases that affect all dogs. New research proposals are requested and reviewed by CHF annually to ensure ongoing progress in these fields of study. For example, 2020 saw additional funding awarded to the Shine On Project, a collaborative effort at the University of Minnesota to detect and prevent hemangiosarcoma in companion dogs.

Since 1995, CHF and its donors have invested \$1.4 million to study canine epilepsy, \$4.1 million in hemangiosarcoma research, and more than \$920,000 in tick-borne disease research. Learn more about these efforts and their outcomes at akcCHF.org/epilepsy, akcCHF.org/hemangiosarcoma, and akcCHF.org/ticks.



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. To learn more, or to support this program, visit akcchf.org/clinsci.

Class of 2021

Josephine Dornbusch, DVM (CHF Grant 02922-E): Ohio State University

Mentor: Laura Selmic, BVetMed (Hons), MPH, DACVS-SA, DECVS

Dr. Dornbusch is a small animal surgery resident at the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She is this year's AKC Canine Health Foundation GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get Ready To Rumble "Rumble" Clinician-Scientist Fellow (akcchf.org/rumble). Her focus is evaluating the clinical efficacy of a novel technique for urethral catheterization of female dogs weighing less than 22 pounds (toy breeds and puppies).

This fellowship is generously sponsored by Rumble's owners, Carolyn and Gary Koch, and breeders Kristy and Kevin Ratliff.



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

Lopamudra Kher, BVSc & AH, MVSc, MS (CHF Grant 02924-E): University of Florida

Mentor: Domenico Santoro, DVM, MS, DrSc, PhD

Dr. Kher is a doctoral candidate in the Small Animal Clinical Sciences Department of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Her work focuses on the effect of signaling molecules associated with canine atopic dermatitis on *S. pseudointermedius* bacteria.

This fellowship is generously sponsored in part by the Westie Foundation of America.



Skylar Sylvester, DVM (CHF Grant 02923-E): Cornell University

Mentors: Cheryl Balkman, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology) & Kelly Hume, DVM, DACVIM (Oncology)

Dr. Sylvester is a medical oncology resident at Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. Her work involves a clinical trial to evaluate the efficacy of temozolomide in addition to standard doxorubicin therapy in dogs with splenic hemangiosarcoma.

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



AKC/AKCCHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM



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. Each 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/therio.

Residents Active in 2020



Jamie Douglas, DVM (CHF Grant 02538-E): Auburn University

Residency Coordinator: Robyn R. Wilborn, DVM, MS, DACT

Residency program start: 2019

Dr. Douglas received her DVM from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 2014 and her master's degree in animal science (focus: reproduction) from Southern Illinois University Carbondale's College of Agricultural Sciences in 2015.



Alyssa Helms, DVM (CHF Grant 02390-E): Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

Residency Coordinator: Julie T. Cecere, DVM, MS, DACT

Residency program start: 2018

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.



Joanna Koilpillai, BVSc & AH (CHF Grant 02666-E): Ohio State University

Residency Coordinator: Marco A. Coutinho da Silva, DVM, PhD, DACT

Residency program start: 2020

Dr. Koilpillai earned her veterinary degree from Madras Veterinary College in Chennai, India. After one year in mixed animal private practice in India, she completed a small animal internship at Veterinary Healthcare Associates in Florida.



Kelsey Martin, DVM (CHF Grant 02668-E): Colorado State University

Residency Coordinator: Fiona Hollinshead, BVSc, PhD, DACT

Residency program start: 2020

Dr. Martin received her bachelor's degree in Biology at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette. She returned to her native Colorado to earn her veterinary degree at Colorado State University.

Financial Statements

Statements of Financial Position

December 31, 2020 and 2019

Assets	2020	2019
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,729,193	\$3,810,422
Investments	26,949,264	22,603,487
Contributions receivable	275,235	469,083
Other receivables	6,286	7,410
Prepaid expenses	63,746	55,767
Fixed assets, net	-	13,465
Total assets	<u>\$30,023,724</u>	<u>\$26,959,634</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$32,194	\$73,686
Grants payable	4,291,424	3,967,822
Total liabilities	<u>\$4,323,618</u>	<u>\$4,041,508</u>
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions		
Unrestricted	\$3,115,048	\$2,786,454
With donor restrictions		
Temporarily restricted	18,035,641	16,098,970
Permanently restricted	4,549,417	4,032,702
Total net assets	<u>\$25,700,106</u>	<u>\$22,918,126</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$30,023,724</u>	<u>\$26,959,634</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, 2020 and 2019

Revenues and Other Support	2020	2019
Contributions	\$2,595,610	\$8,624,889
Contributions from related parties	1,445,997	2,128,097
Government grant	100,000	-
Grant management income	35,621	12,288
Interest and dividend income	608,109	589,334
Net unrealized and realized investment gains	2,364,821	2,337,277
Sponsored events and conferences	1,925	144,305
In-kind donations	380,381	640,018
Royalty income	-	304,266
Miscellaneous income	2,974	25,829
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total revenues and other support	<u>\$7,535,438</u>	<u>\$14,806,303</u>
 Expenses		
Canine research and education	\$4,098,284	\$4,014,874
Fundraising	345,661	520,796
General and administrative	309,513	385,707
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenses	<u>\$4,753,458</u>	<u>\$4,921,377</u>
Increase in net assets	2,781,980	9,884,926
Net assets – beginning of year	<u>\$22,918,126</u>	<u>\$13,033,200</u>
Net assets – end of year	<u>\$25,700,106</u>	<u>\$22,918,126</u>

In 2020, AKC Canine Health Foundation earned a highest 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

2020 Honor Roll

The Honor Roll of donors recognizes cash contributions of \$500 or more made between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. 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-\$499,000)

American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Inc.
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Grand Rapids Kennel Club
Greeley Kennel Club, Inc.
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Mr. Steven Hamblin and Mr. Frank Meister
Dr. Kathleen M. Harper
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"Having been an ardent supporter of CHF, almost from its inception, I have been privileged to participate in its mission to 'Prevent, Treat and Cure' the many breeds of dogs. As an AKC Breeder of Merit of Akitas for many years, my concerns for the health and welfare of our breed have certainly been furthered by CHF's commitment to the burgeoning of canine genetic disease research. We are ever so grateful for organizations like CHF who focus on the many factors and variables that need to be considered in addressing the health and welfare of our canine friends."

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AKC Canine Health Foundation
25th Anniversary Donor Advised Fund Challenge



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By becoming a sustainer, you can contribute monthly to leading breakthroughs for canine health. akcchf.org/donate

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