



IN SESSION

AKC'S CONGRESSIONAL NEWSLETTER

The American Kennel Club's Newsletter for Members of Congress and their Staff

PERSPECTIVES

*We're more than champion dogs...
We're the dog's champion.*

Celebrating 140 Years of Advancing Responsible dog ownership

On September 17, the American Kennel Club (AKC) will celebrate 140 years of educating about responsible dog ownership, working to advance and protect the purebred dog and improving the health and wellbeing of all dogs.

The AKC was established by a small group of sportsmen in 1884 who sought to preserve and record the bloodlines of their hunting dogs. Today, the AKC is the world's largest all breed registry and dog sport organization, and the only one devoted to the advancing health and wellbeing of all dogs.

AKC's more than 5,000 affiliated dog clubs in all 50 states contribute directly to their communities through education, volunteer programs, and family friendly sports and events that can inject on average more than \$2.16M into a local community in a weekend.

AKC's Canine Health Foundation is the world's largest funder of scientific research

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SPOTLIGHT

K9 HEROES ON CAPITOL HILL: The Essential Role of Dogs in National Security



K9s of the United States Capitol Police (USCP).

In an era where threats like homegrown terrorism and mass shootings are on the rise, the role of explosive detection dogs has never been more vital. With their exceptional scenting abilities, these dogs are unparalleled in identifying explosives, significantly enhancing public safety at events, airports, and other sensitive locations. Their quick and accurate detection of hazardous materials is crucial for law enforcement and security agencies, helping to mitigate risks and reduce the likelihood of security breaches or attacks.

Historically, the United States has depended on Europe for a significant percentage of its working dogs, with approximately 80-90% of detection dogs bred overseas. However, our nation is currently facing a shortage of these essential animals due to increased overseas demand. In response to this pressing need for effective explosive detection, the American Kennel Club (AKC) launched the Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF) in 2017 to help bolster the domestic supply of high-quality dogs trained for this critical work. The DDTF addresses the growing demand for detection dogs against a backdrop of decreasing availability, prompted by a surge in terrorism incidents.

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force collaborates with experts from various fields, including academia, government, military, policing, training and breeding, to forge comprehensive solutions to the shortage of U.S. detection

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K9 Hank, a Labrador Retriever with the United States Capitol Police (USCP).

dogs. This proactive program plays a key role in safeguarding communities and bolstering law enforcement efforts.

A major initiative from the task force is the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP), which assists U.S. breeders and trainers in breeding and raising sound and confident puppies that are well-suited for detection training. To date, nearly 100 PPP graduates have gone on to deployment or advanced training as detection dogs with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as private security, in high-traffic venues and cargo screening operations.

One such success story is K9 Hank, a Labrador Retriever with the United States Capitol Police (USCP). Bred in Utah by a seasoned breeder with more than 25 years of experience, K9 Hank collaborates with K9 technician Meghan O'Leary. Together, they are dedicated to ensuring the safety of the public, members of Congress, and the congressional buildings and grounds against crime and terrorism. The USCP's mission is crucial for maintaining a secure environment where Congress can fulfill its constitutional and legislative responsibilities.

K9 Hank specializes in detecting Person Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (PBIED), meaning he is trained to locate explosives on individuals. Officer O'Leary emphasizes that K9 Hank's presence also acts as a deterrent to potential terrorist activities.

To achieve excellence, US Capitol Police K9s undergo a rigorous 16-week training program designed to foster a harmonious partnership between the handler and the canine. From the outset, the training staff prioritizes milestone achievements to ensure both

K9s and handlers are adept in explosives detection. During the training, K9s learn to identify various explosive materials while handlers become skilled at interpreting the dogs' cues during missions. The foundational work that Hank and others receive through the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program is pivotal to their success in later training.

Post-graduation training continues, with regular assessments to maintain the dogs' sharpness. "We operate in large crowds where the stakes are high. Our responsibility is to screen individuals swiftly and effectively, ensuring everyone's safety at the Capitol," Officer O'Leary states.

During major events, such as those on the Fourth of July and Memorial Day, the visibility and presence of K9 Hank becomes even more critical. Officer O'Leary strategically positions herself and Hank in bustling areas, providing reassurance to the public while remaining vigilant against potential threats.

Despite the serious nature of their duties, public interactions are largely positive. K9 Hank's friendly demeanor softens the atmosphere and encourages engagement. "People genuinely appreciate our presence and often come to ask questions. It's fulfilling to see them understand our mission," Officer O'Leary affirms, highlighting the importance of transparency in policing.

"My favorite part of being a K9 handler is going to work with my best friend every day," says Officer O'Leary. "I realize how fortunate I am to have this opportunity and remain committed to this important mission daily."

Officer O'Leary's responsibilities extend beyond working hours, as she cares for K9 Hank through daily routines of play, swimming, and exploration. Building a strong bond is essential for maintaining confidence during the high-stress situations they may encounter on duty.

"As a K9 handler with the USCP, I take pride in being part of a unique family within law enforcement. Established in 1971, the USCP K9 Unit has continually adapted to meet evolving security demands. I feel incredibly fortunate to contribute to this vital mission of ensuring safety for all who visit the Capitol Grounds," O'Leary notes.

K9 Hank and Officer O'Leary embody the dedication and bravery of K9 units across the nation. As they patrol the historic grounds of the Capitol, their mission remains clear: to uphold democracy in a safe and secure environment. Through rigorous training, unwavering commitment, and a profound bond, this K9 team stands ready to respond to any call of duty, silently protecting the foundations of our government and the well-being of those who enter its hallowed halls. Together, they are not just enforcers of the law; they are heroes in an ever-evolving world. ■

Did You Know?

- In May 2024, the AKC awarded the entire U.S. Capitol Police (USCP) K9 Unit with the AKC Canine Officer Program Award.
- Dogs have a sense of smell that's between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than ours!
- You can get your own dog involved in detection work through the [AKC Scent Work program](#).



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Sheila Goffe
Vice President
Government Relations

The Honorable G.T. Thompson
Chairman
House Agriculture Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
400 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott
Ranking Member
House Agriculture Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
468 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: American Kennel Club Supports Animal Care Enhancements Included in the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024*.

Dear Chairman Thompson and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the American Kennel Club (AKC), our more than 5,000 community-based dog clubs, and millions of responsible dog owners and enthusiasts throughout America, I write you today to express support for animal care enhancements included Title XII of the Farm Bill, the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024*.

Specifically, the AKC supports the following positive Farm Bill animal care provisions:

- **Section 12410 – Enhancement of Pet Protections.**
 - **Report to Congress.** Requires, within two years, a report to Congress from the Secretary evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement standards and requirements of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA); efforts to educate and advise dealers of all standards and requirement of the Act; and the capacity of the Secretary to enforce standards under the Act.
 - **Veterinary Care.** Mandates that annual veterinary exams of animals under the AWA include a visual dental exam.
 - **Confiscation for Unrelieved Suffering.** Requires AWA inspectors to notify state law enforcement and animal health officials if a dog is determined to be in a state of “unrelieved suffering” and further requires that immediate confiscation be considered for such dogs.
- **Section 12205 – Importation of Live Dogs –** Expands USDA’s electronic health documentation requirements for pets entering the United States. This provision reflects language in the Healthy Dog Importation Act (HR 1184) by requiring electronic records documentation on dogs prior to their importation that confirms the dog is in good health; microchipped; has received all necessary vaccination and parasite treatment, demonstrated negative test results, and a health certificate from an accredited veterinarian; and in the case of a dog intended for transfer, is at least 6 months old.
- Exceptions are provided for dogs that are personal pets of United States origin returning to the United States; United States military working dogs; for research purposes; and coming to the United States solely for veterinary treatment; among several others.
- **Section 12411 – Protecting Animals with Shelter –** Reauthorizes funding for transitional shelters for victims of domestic violence that allow victims to shelter with a pet. This provision mirrors efforts privately supported by the AKC Humane Fund.
- **Section 12003 – Establishes the USDA’s National Detector Dog Training Center,** which will train specially selected dogs (and their handlers) to identify invasive pests and diseases that threaten agriculture. The measure is also known as H.R. 1480, the “Beagle Brigade Act.

While the AKC strongly supports these positive animal welfare provisions above, we are concerned amendments will be offered to the Farm Bill that unnecessarily restrict AWA licensees and dealers. Problematic *potential* Amendments that are opposed by AKC include:

- **The Better CARE for Animals Act (HR 5041/S 2555) would expand the power of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to enforce any violation of the AWA and circumvent the USDA's authority and the expertise of veterinarians and other animal experts at USDA to enforce animal care requirements.** HR 5041/S 2555 would also empower the DOJ to file charges, including potentially criminal charges, seize animals and impose penalties regardless of whether USDA has determined or even alleged that there has been a violation of the AWA. USDA already has the demonstrated authority and ability to work with the DOJ on rare cases involving criminal conduct.
- **Goldie's Act (HR 1788/S 4033), which redefines violations of the AWA to remove the distinction between minor non-compliances such as paperwork errors and animal care violations.** AKC believes the goal should be zero non-compliances, but the health and wellbeing of animals should always remain the priority. Goldie's Act also allows for immediate seizure or euthanasia without due process of any animal an inspector perceives to be suffering from, among other things, "psychological harm" -- a term it does not define.
- **The Puppy Protection Act (HR 1624), which seeks to mandate one-size-fits all kennel engineering standards that could undermine canine best care practices.** Provisions in the Puppy Protection Act include inflexible and arbitrary prohibitions on breeding a dog based on size and age; mandated full time "unfettered access to exercise area large enough to allow extension of full stride", arbitrary temperature requirements, and other requirements that become problematic without flexibility to allow for individual animals' needs and requirements.

The AKC thanks Chairman Thompson for his thoughtful approach and applauds the inclusion of many positive animal care provisions in the base text of the *Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024* and encourages unamended adoption by the Committee. Further, the AKC opposes potential amendments during committee markup related to the bills outlined above that would restrict AWA dealers and licensees.

As we approach markup of the Farm Bill on Thursday, May 23, 2024, the AKC is happy to serve as a resource and answer the questions of the Committee and your staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me at shg@akc.org or 919-816-3721.

For additional resources and information, please also do not hesitate to contact AKC visit [AKC's Government Relations Online Resource Center \(www.akcgr.org\)](https://www.akcgr.org).

Sincerely,



Sheila Goffe

Vice President, Government Relations
American Kennel Club

CC: Members of the House Agriculture Committee
Senator Debbie Stabenow, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry
Senator John Boozman, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry



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Understanding the Facts of Dog Breeding Laws

The American Kennel Club (AKC) supports strong enforcement of the federal Animal Welfare Act (AWA), including new rules currently part of a 3-year implementation process set for completion in fall 2024.

Animal rights/protection groups are seeking to place new laws impacting hobby breeders in the 2023 Farm Bill; AKC believes existing rules governing breeders should be fully implemented and assessed before adding new, confusing and overly-restrictive laws.

Responsible dog breeders are experts on breeding and often have decades of practical and scientific experience. Stakeholders with experience in animal husbandry, including representatives from some of the 5000 AKC clubs around the country, should be consulted during the legislative process. By contrast, animal protection organizations that seek to limit pet breeding typically have little scientific knowledge or practical knowledge or experience with animal husbandry.

AKC believes appropriate care that considers the purpose, characteristics and needs of the animal should always be the priority.

Laws governing dog ownership and breeding should be reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory. This is why AKC opposes HR 1462 as introduced and urges Congress to not advance these bills or allow them to be added to the Farm Bill.

GET IN TOUCH WITH US!



919-816-3720

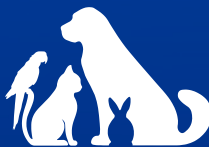


www.akcgr.org



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\$4M Increase



AKC SUPPORTS INCREASED AWA FUNDING

From FY 2019 – FY 2023 the USDA's budget for enforcing the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) remained static, despite increasing program demands. AKC supported an increase of \$4M for AWA enforcement in FY 2023 and continues to support additional resources to ensure that the AWA is properly enforced.

STATES ALREADY HAVE FELONY CRUELTY LAWS

All 50 U.S. states already have felony cruelty laws. Thankfully, cases of animal cruelty to dogs are rare, which is why they sometimes make the news. In cases where such activities do occur, current laws should be fully enforced.

1.2 M DOGS IMPORTED INTO THE US EVERY YEAR

The annual replacement rate for pet dogs in the U.S. is 8 million/year. U.S. breeders cannot meet this demand for pet dogs. According to the CDC, approximately 1.2 million pet dogs were imported into the U.S. in 2019, primarily for the rescue retail and retail markets.* Overly restrictive regulations undermine the flexibility needed for quality regulated pet breeding programs and incentivizes production of pets in overseas markets, where welfare laws do not exist.

MANY HOBBY BREEDERS ARE ALREADY SUBJECT TO COMMERCIAL LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Dog owners and hobby breeders who have any combination of 5 intact female mammals (rabbits, cats, hamsters, gerbils, dogs, etc.) and transfer one offspring sight unseen are subject to federal licensing and regulation as a commercial breeder. A person could own only one dog and have one litter and still be subject to federal USDA licensing and kenneling requirements for commercial dog breeder/dealers.

DOGS ARE THE MOST DIVERSE SPECIES OF MAMMAL

From the tiny Chihuahua to the massive Saint Bernard, dogs are the most diverse species of land mammal. Their requirements for temperatures, housing, exercise, food, etc. vary. The one-size-fits-all rules in the "Puppy Protection Act" (HR 1642) would undermine small, high quality specialized breeding programs.

WHAT QUALIFIES AS 'PSYCHOLOGICAL HARM'?

Goldie's Law (HR 1788) requires USDA inspectors to destroy or remove a dog from its home if they believe it is experiencing "psychological harm"; but the proposal doesn't define what this means. It also de-prioritizes the care and wellbeing of dogs by removing the distinction between care and paperwork violations.

* Demographic replacement rate; 2019, the last year for which data is available

AKC is More than Champion Dogs, We're the Dog's Champion

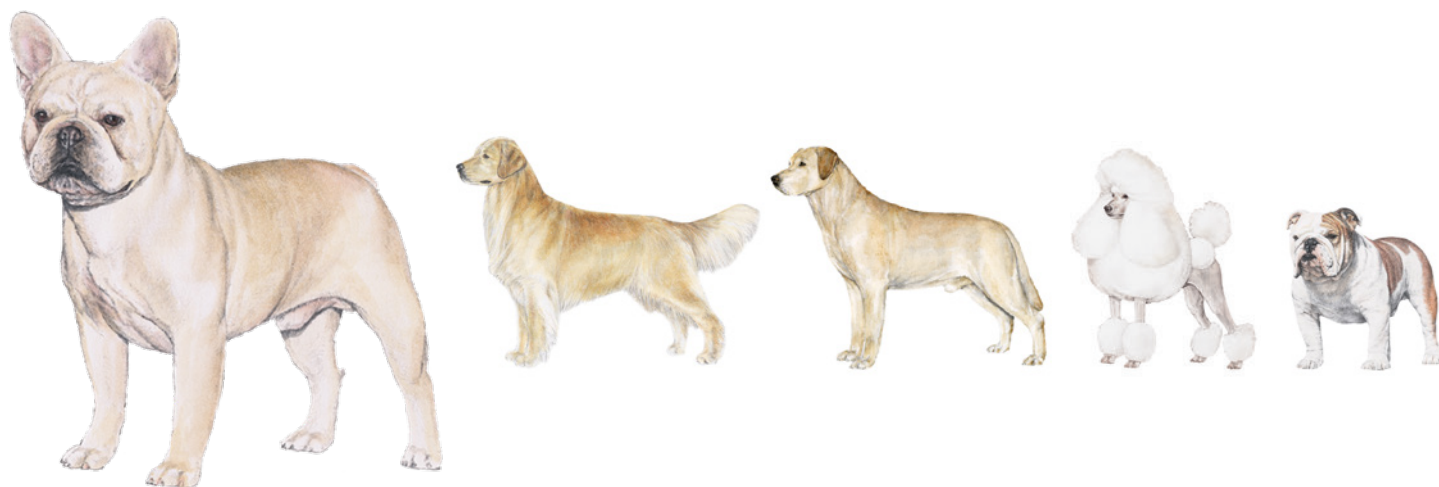


The American Kennel Club is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting responsible dog ownership, preserving purebred dogs, the health and well-being of all dogs, and advocating for science-based canine policy that is reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory.

Did you know?

- AKC is the world's largest all-breed dog registry.
- AKC has more than 5,000 local and breed-based dog clubs throughout the U.S.
- AKC hosts over 25,000 dog events per year with more than 3.5 million entries, including breed conformation, agility, obedience, field trials, and more.
- AKC events can inject more than \$2.15 million into the community during each event.
- Nationwide, AKC dog events can generate more than \$1.5 billion a year in local spending.
- AKC's Detection Dog Task Force works to help address the shortage of high-quality U.S. -bred and -trained explosive detection dogs to protect public safety and national security.
- For more than a decade, AKC Humane Fund has provided grants to shelters that house victims of domestic abuse with their pets.
- The AKC Museum of the Dog preserves, interprets, and celebrates the role of dogs in society and educates the public about the human-canine bond through its 1,700-piece rotating collection and 4,000-volume library.
- AKC Pet Disaster Relief program helps local Emergency Management provide animal care services immediately following a disaster, including a donation of a trailer stocked with essential supplies to house over 65 pets in the critical first few days following a disaster. To date, more than 100 emergency relief trailers have been donated to communities around the nation.
- AKC Canine Health Foundation funds research projects that focus on all aspects of the physical, mental, and social well-being of dogs. AKC CHF's \$67 millions in grants has resulted in over 1,135 research grants, countless canine health projects, and 932 peer-reviewed publications.
- AKC co-founded American Service Dog Access Coalition (ASDAC), a charitable organization of industry leaders working together to establish Service Dog Pass,™ an authoritative, verifiable service dog credential to establish and incentivize compliance with behavioral and health standards for service dogs and to address fraudulent misrepresentation of pets as service dogs.
- AKC Reunite has reunited more than 650,000 lost pets with their owners, donates microchip scanners to shelters, and helps reunite pets displaced by storms and other disasters. The Adopt A K9 Cop Program has donated funding for police K-9s to more than 200 police departments.
- AKC's Rescue Network provides financial assistance to non-profit rescue groups. More than 450 AKC Rescue Network groups are located across the U.S.; the largest rescue network in America.
- AKC has a dedicated team of field agents who visit and inspect kennels to educate breeders and ensure proper care and conditions of AKC-registered dogs and accurate record keeping. Since 2000, AKC field agents have conducted over 80,000 inspections nationwide.
- AKC created the Canine Good Citizen® program - A 10-step test that encourages and certifies dogs who have good manners. Over 1,200,000 dogs have earned CGC certification.
- AKC provides teachers nationwide with academically rigorous lesson plans and activities that incorporate core subject areas for grades K-12 and teach about responsible dog ownership.
- And much more!

Most Popular Breeds of 2023



As the world's largest registry of purebred dogs, the AKC uses our registration statistics to rank the most popular breeds of the past year — and the numbers are in! Which breed has been named the American Kennel Club's most popular dog breed of 2023?

For the second year in a row, the [French Bulldog](#) has secured the No.1 spot as the most popular dog breed in the United States! Before 2022, the [Labrador Retriever](#) had a firm hold on the top spot, keeping an impressive [31-year reign](#).

Staying in the No.1 Spot

The French Bulldog's popularity shows no signs of slowing down. You've likely seen these bat-eared companions before, and they're especially popular in cities. Over the last 11 years, the French Bulldog has steadily grown in registration rankings, ranking No. 14 in 2012. In 2021, Frenchies made it to the No. 2 spot, taking over the [top spot officially in 2022](#).

French Bulldog "Winston" won first place in the Non-Sporting Group, moving on to Best in Show at the 2022 AKC National Championship. Winston went on to win Best in Show.

Part of the French Bulldog's appeal is their playful, smart, and adaptable nature. They're easy to bring anywhere, and great companions for a variety of lifestyles. These smart little dogs originated in France, and [French Bulldog history](#) is one with many layers. Even in the past, they belonged to all kinds of people, from royalty to middle-class artisans. They were recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1898, giving them over 100 years of AKC history along with it.

Top 10 Dog Breeds of 2023

It's no surprise to dog lovers that the Frenchie remains in the No. 1 spot, and the rest of the top five breeds follow a similar pattern. Same as 2022, the Labrador Retriever, [Golden Retriever](#),

[German Shepherd Dog](#), and [Poodle](#) are ranked No. 2-5 respectively.

There's some shuffling in the top 10 from 2022 to 2023. The [Dachshund](#) is making moves, jumping from the No. 9 spot in 2022 to the No. 6 spot in 2023. [Rottweilers](#) took their spot at No. 9 in 2023, moving down from No. 7 in 2022. [Bulldogs](#) went from No. 6 in 2022 to No. 7 in 2023. The Beagle remains at No. 8, and the German Shorthaired Pointer remains at No. 10 with no change in rank.

Over the last decade, breeds like the [Cane Corso](#), [Belgian Malinois](#), [Giant Schnauzer](#), and [English Cocker Spaniel](#) have also seen jumps in popularity. The [Mudi](#), [Russian Toy](#), and [Bracco Italiano](#) were recognized in 2022, but since the Bracco Italiano was recognized in July of that year, they debuted in the registration lists in 2023, at No. 152. The Mudi went from its debut at No. 150 in 2022 to No. 130 in 2023, while the Russian Toy debuted at No. 144 and now ranks No. 141.

The [Lancashire Heeler](#) was the [newest breed recognized by the AKC](#) starting January 2024. Tune in next year to see where they debut in the ranks! ■

Most Popular Dog Breeds in Washington D.C.

1. French Bulldog
2. Golden Retriever
3. Labrador Retriever
4. Poodle
5. Bulldog

AKC Reunite Awards Over \$1.4 Million in 2024 Grants For Adopt A K-9 Cop Program



AKC Reunite, the largest non-profit pet microchip identification and recovery service provider in the United States, is pleased to announce that it has awarded all 200 grants allocated for 2024 through its AKC Reunite Adopt A K-9 Cop matching grant program.

“AKC Reunite is so proud to be able to partner with AKC clubs to support these departments in such a significant way,” said Tom Sharp, President and CEO of AKC Reunite. “The hundreds of K-9 officers who are serving around the country due to this grant program are helping their communities with bomb detection, community outreach and on patrol.”

The Adopt A K-9 Cop program allows AKC Reunite to match funds from AKC Clubs, AKC-affiliated organizations and the public, three-to-one, up to \$7,500 per grant. These donations help police departments throughout the United States purchase K-9 police dogs. Many of the police dogs acquired with the

help of these grants are used as patrol dogs as well as detection dogs, helping to locate narcotics, explosives and/or evidence. A total of 759 Adopt A K-9 Cop grants have been awarded since the inception of the program in 2013 and, as of this year, the program has awarded more than \$5.7 million in grants.

“AKC and AKC Reunite are proud to be able to make these grants available to our K-9 first responders and the public they serve,” said Christopher L. Sweetwood, AKC Board member and founder of the AKC Reunite Adopt A K-9 Cop Program. “Their dedication to duty protects our nation and keeps us safe. We look forward to continuing this tradition and greatly appreciate the law enforcement community and their canine partners for their service.”

Police departments interested in receiving grants in 2025 can learn more at www.akcreunite.org. ■

The American Kennel Club and AKC Canine Health Foundation Launch Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Program



The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), in collaboration with the American Kennel Club (AKC), announces the launch of the AKC/AKC CHF Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Program.

This program is designed to increase the number of specialists trained to meet the unique needs of athletic and working dogs, as well as all dogs in need of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation focuses on recovery after surgical procedures, as well as improving the quality of life in animals suffering from debilitating diseases such as arthritis or neurologic impairments. Cutting-edge medicine and health research will benefit canine athletes such as AKC conformation and performance sport participants, detection dogs, military working dogs, police dogs, and more. Given the growing popularity of performance and companion dog sports, canine athletes across the country stand to benefit from additional practitioners trained in this relatively new veterinary specialty.

“CHF recognizes that the health and well-being of dogs extend beyond routine healthcare,” says Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CHF Chief Executive Officer. “In supporting a Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency, the Foundation demonstrates its continued commitment to advancing veterinary medicine and ensuring that every dog receives the specialized care they deserve based on their unique circumstances.”

CHF released the first call for applications from veterinary colleges with approved sports medicine and rehabilitation programs this month. Each proposal will be reviewed by a panel of

CHF leadership and subject matter experts and the chosen institution will receive \$100,000 annually to support a three-year residency. Interested veterinary professionals will apply through the Veterinary Internship & Residency Matching Program in the spring of 2025 and start their residency training in July 2025. The program will hopefully grow to award a new residency every year, providing ongoing support for three concurrent residents.

Gina DiNardo, AKC Executive Secretary, shares “This Program will support the training of specialists to care for not only AKC companion and performance sport participants but all dogs. The AKC is passionate about everything related to dogs and proud to support the training of these integral veterinary professionals.”

The AKC/AKC CHF Canine Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Program builds on the success of a similar collaboration supporting specialty training in reproductive medicine and clinical genetics. Since 2016, the [AKC/AKC CHF/TF Small Animal Theriogenology Residency Program](#) has provided funding to train 14 specialists at various United States veterinary colleges to help safeguard the health of current and future generations of dogs.

With generous support from the AKC, CHF remains committed to advancing the health of all dogs through cutting-edge science and educational grants. Learn more about these efforts at akcCHF.org/educationalgrants. ■

AKC Canine Health Foundation Celebrates Over 1,000 Scientific Publications



The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all dogs, proudly announces the publication of its 1,000th scientific study. This significant milestone demonstrates CHF's unwavering commitment to improving the lives of dogs.

Since its inception in 1995, CHF, in partnership with its generous donors, has invested over \$73 million in funding more than 1,189 canine health research and educational grants. As a measure of its impact, CHF tracks peer-reviewed scientific publications stemming from its studies. To be published, the articles must pass rigorous evaluation by experts in the field to ensure the highest standards and validity of the findings. By contributing to the broader knowledge of canine health, these publications drive groundbreaking advancements in veterinary medicine. CHF-funded studies have appeared in veterinary-focused journals, such as the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, and high-profile journals reaching broad scientific audiences, like *Science* and *Nature Genetics*.

Dr. Stephanie Montgomery, CHF Chief Executive Officer, emphasizes the profound impact of the Foundation's funding, stating, "The AKC Canine Health Foundation has left an indelible mark on the health and well-being of dogs worldwide. Reaching this monumental 1,000th publication milestone exemplifies the valuable knowledge gained through our studies, which will continue to benefit dogs for generations to come."

The 1,000th publication, featured in *Frontiers in Pain Research*, presents groundbreaking research examining objective differences in pain sensitivity between specific dog breeds. The results challenge commonly held beliefs by both veterinarians

and non-veterinarians about breed-specific pain sensitivity. These findings carry important implications that may improve the recognition and treatment of pain in dogs.

"Through its funding initiatives, CHF has encouraged 'out of the box' thinking that allowed this work to be done, opening an avenue of research with the potential to impact our understanding of pain and the practice of veterinary medicine," says the study's principal investigator, Dr. Margaret Gruen, a board-certified veterinary behavior specialist at North Carolina State University.

Co-author Dr. Duncan Lascelles, a board-certified veterinary surgeon, adds, "Our work has uncovered some of the beliefs that both veterinarians and non-veterinarians hold about pain sensitivity in different dog breeds. Support from CHF has allowed us to start to understand the biological and behavioral bases for these beliefs, and importantly, whether different breeds do actually differ in pain sensitivity."

"I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to engage in novel research that will improve the lives of dogs, as well as those who love them. My PhD and postdoctoral studies would not be possible without the generous funding from CHF," says lead researcher Dr. Rachel Caddiell, a postdoctoral researcher specializing in animal welfare and behavior and recent PhD graduate from the Comparative Biomedical Science program at North Carolina State University.

With an ongoing portfolio of 128 active canine health research studies, CHF supports research that advances the health of dogs. To learn more about CHF's groundbreaking work, visit akcCHF.org/research. ■

on all aspects of the physical, mental and social wellbeing. More than \$70MM in grants has resulted in over 1,000 research grants and 1,000 peer review publications.

AKC's Humane Fund provides grants to domestic violence shelters to enable victims to shelter safely with their pets.

AKC's Kennel Inspections program has conducted more than 80,000 inspections nationwide.

AKC Reunite has reunited more than 680,000 lost pets with their owners, donated more than 100 disaster relief trailers, and has funded more for than 500 working K-9s to local communities in need.

AKC's Government Relations Department uses unparalleled canine policy expertise to advance our mission and ensure that legislation and regulation pertaining to dogs is reasonable, enforceable and non-discriminatory. We are very pleased that crucial legislation to advance canine health and wellbeing and assure the future of our unique breeds and their responsible breeders is part of this year's House Farm Bill (H.R. 8467). We urge inclusion in the Senate version, and other future versions as well.

We invite you to join us September 17 in celebration of our anniversary in the Canon Caucus room to meet representatives from our 7 breed groups, including winners from the [AKC National Championship](#) and Westminster Kennel Club dog show. To RSVP, learn more about our programs and to connect with policy staff ready to be a resource for you, contact us at doglaw@akc.org or 919-816-3720.

All the best,



Sheila Goffe
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