

Welcome

The Foundation would not have come this far in our ten short years without sponsors such as Nestle Purina Pet Care Company and without the vision of the member clubs, delegates, board, and staff of the AKC. In planning this conference, we decided to focus on Clubs and the important roles they play in establishing breed health programs. We hope to provide you with the tools to make your jobs easier.

The Delegates Canine Health Committee was formed several year ago for the specific purpose of gathering and sharing with the Delegates scientific information vital to the improvement of canine health as well as recommended to the Body educational programs, procedures and research relevant to canine health.

In keeping with that charge, since its inception the committee has submitted numerous articles on health issues to the Delegates newsletter for club use, developed the first canine health survey, initiated the CHIC concept, and proposed a more proactive role in the use of DNA by the AKC.

The challenge in current canine health research is finding the balance between funding research projects that are more likely to immediately impact diagnoses and clinical treatment of dogs with that of basic research that provides data to potentially prevent the unnecessary perpetuation of genetic-based canine diseases, as well as more fully utilize the wealth of human genetic and biomedical information. At the AKC CHF, we are dedicated to supporting the most relevant and the highest quality research projects and teams in both these endeavors that contribute to the overall goal of improving canine health.

The Purina Parent Club Partnership Program

The Purina Parent Club Partnership (PPCP) program helps National Parent Breed Clubs earn important funds for canine health studies, education efforts and/or rescue through the participation of its members in Purina Pro Club. Pro Club members, who redeem weight circles and designate their breed, earn valuable Purina Points for every purchased pound of participating Purina brand dog foods. When Pro Club members participate in the PPCP Program, they can earn an additional 10% of the value of all points from

valid weight circles credited to their Pro Club account for the National Parent Breed Club of the breed they have designated. Purina will deposit a minimum of 50% of the funds accrued for your breed through the PPCP Program directly into the breed's CHF Donor Advised Fund (100% of the funds accrued can be donated to the CHF Donor Advised Fund if the National Parent Breed Club chooses that allocation). The check for each year will be presented to the Canine Health Foundation in February of the following year. The remaining 50% can be used by the National Parent Breed Club for rescue and/or education programs.

Meeting the Challenge: An Update on the "Double the Dollars for Dogs" Endowment Campaign

The AKC Canine Health Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for dogs and their owners. To accomplish this mission is no easy task; we must first engage our donors consisting of individuals, clubs, and organizations who are passionate and dedicated to advancing the health of their dogs. Once we've raised the funds, we look to match those funds with the research that will benefit specific breeds or all dogs. This is a step we don't take lightly. Each pre-proposal is rigorously reviewed for content and method by a "jury of the investigators peers." This is how we continue to be good stewards of your donations and it's a charge that we are devoted to doing right and doing well.

There are several ways to give to the AKC Canine Health Foundation. Each year, we conduct an Annual Fund drive where donors are encouraged to contribute to ongoing education and operating costs. There are several ways to give to the Foundation including cash, gifts of stock, planned giving, and matching gifts. Matching gifts are usually coordinated through your respective employers, so please consult with your business to see whether or not they will match your contribution--which essentially gives you the opportunity to make your contribution stretch even further.

Speaking of making your dollar go further, in October 2004, the AKC presented the CHF endowment fund \$500,000 with a challenge--as the CHF raises another \$500,000 toward the Endowment in 2005; the AKC will match those contributions. In all, that adds up to \$1.5 million that will support the Foundation in perpetuity.

This is your chance to make a lasting impression in the health and well-being of your dog. Each contribution that you make toward the Endowment fund will be matched dollar for dollar--that's twice the amount you can contribute toward genetic research in canine diseases such as cancer, eye, heart and thyroid diseases, epilepsy and many more. And, since canines and humans share much of the same genetic makeup--you're helping contribute to human research as well.