



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 27, 2005

Contact: Jeff Sossamon

Phone: 919-334-4010

Dr. Elaine Ostrander Awarded Inaugural Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award

Raleigh, NC – By a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the Canine Health Foundation (CHF), Elaine Ostrander, PhD, has been awarded the first Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award.

Dr. Ostrander is Chief of the Cancer Genetics Branch at the National Human Genome Research Institute of NIH where she also heads the Section of Comparative Genetics. She received her PhD from the Oregon Health Sciences University, and did her postdoc training at Harvard. Ostrander then went to Berkeley, where she began her work in sequencing the canine genome, and worked also at the Lawrence Berkeley National Labs on the Human Genome Project. She then conducted studies at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center and University of Washington for 12 years, rising to the rank of Member in the Human Biology and Clinical Research Divisions, and Head of the Genetics Program.

Her current research interests are in the area of genetic mapping and genomics. Her lab works in both human and canine genetics and focuses on diseases associated with complex underlying genetics such as cancer and hip dysplasia.

“Elaine is a true pioneer in the discovery and mapping of the canine genome – an invaluable tool in the fight against disease,” notes Wayne Ferguson, president of the CHF. “The Directors of the Foundation realized early on the potential of the genome sequence and made this a top funding priority. Discoveries by funded investigators led to a landmark \$50 million study of the canine genome by the National Institutes of Health – and, without it, I believe we would not have seen nearly as much progress in this short amount of time. Our thanks to Elaine for her dedicated work, she is a true member of the Canine Health Foundation family.”

Upon accepting the award, Dr. Ostrander noted, “This is truly one of the most prestigious honors I’ve received. Asa Mays was an amazing man who left this world far too soon. He was dedicated to canine health in so many ways; a visionary and a leader.” Dr. Ostrander continued, “I am so proud to be the first recipient of this award. On behalf of my many collaborators as well as all of the breed clubs that have generously shared their dogs DNA and their personal stories with me over the years, I say thank you. My challenge now is to live up to your expectations. I will continue to do my best. ”

The award was presented on October 22, 2005, in conjunction with the 2005 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference held in St Louis, MO. Co-sponsored by Nestlé Purina PetCare Company and The American Kennel Club, the event was attended by more than 300 participants who received updated information on topics such as canine cancer, cell therapy, reproduction, nutrition, canine neurological disease, endocrine disorders, cardiology research and vaccination protocols.



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
CANINE HEALTH FOUNDATION

Press Release

#

*The **AKC Canine Health Foundation**, founded in 1995 by the American Kennel Club, is the largest nonprofit worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines. Its goal is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. Because canines and humans share much of the same genome, much of the research on canine diseases applies to people as well. In this, our tenth anniversary, the AKC Canine Health Foundation is proud to announce it has allocated more than \$13 million in canine health research through 52 schools and research institutions for about 275 studies.*

***Nestlé Purina PetCare Company**, a significant and longtime supporter of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, promotes responsible pet care, humane education, community involvement and the positive bond between people and their pets. Based in St. Louis, the Purina Pet Institute is the embodiment of Purina's commitment to achieve better nutrition for dogs and cats through scientific discovery. The Purina Parent Club Partnership Program enables dog clubs to raise money for canine health research for their local clubs as well. See www.purinaproclub.com.*