

Health Committee – Nancy Hopkins / Dee Jones

Status of Borzoi Related Health Research

A lot has happened this year concerning Borzoi health initiatives. There are two organizations now involved, BCOA and the Borzoi Health and Welfare Foundation (BHWF). I will include initiatives of both organizations to help maintain clarity. I also wish to stress that these two organizations are not working counter to each other. To date the initiatives of both organizations have worked in dovetail to help forward our goal toward a formal Borzoi cardiac research study. The BHWF is also eager to raise funds for Borzoi research. Some of the information I give will be provided in more detail by Ginger in her report assuming her meeting with CHF can be scheduled before the deadline of this board report, though that is doubtful due to the need to coordinate with the busy schedules of all involved.

To give a global overview, I will start at the very beginning.

Borzoi Holter Rental Project

In 2016 a proposal to begin a Holter Rental Program with a discount to people who were willing to share the Holter report and all future cardiac health information with BCOA Health was offered by the BCOA Health Committee. The Board ultimately approved this proposal. This began the ***BCOA Holter Rental Project***. The first Holter apparatus and accessories were bought using Borzoi Health Calendar Fundraiser monies raised by Renee McCartin and her calendar volunteers. Leslie Walenta agreed to oversee the Holter maintenance and mail outs. Leslie was a good fit for this position as she has experience with Holters and putting Holters on dogs in addition to her Veterinary Technician experience.

BCOA Borzoi Arrhythmia Project

As the Holter Rental Project was being initiated, Ginger Jones made a second attempt to initiate a cardiac study through CHF. The first request was not accepted on the grounds that the study did not have a tight enough focus. At that time, we did not have the data to know what kinds of heart disease impacted Borzoi and to what degree. The researcher, Dr. Kate Meurs, had proposed a survey study, that was the proposal that CHF refused. With Ginger's second query, CHF found a researcher interested in our breed and a meeting was set. That researcher was again Dr. Kate Meurs. During the discussion with CHF and Dr. Meurs, again, the issue with the lack of documented heart disease of a specific type in Borzoi was a road block with CHF. However, when the Borzoi Holter Rental Project was revealed, Dr. Meurs agreed to accept all collected shared Holter reports with an eye to using the data to create a tightly focused study that would be acceptable to the CHF. This began the BCOA ***Borzoi Arrhythmia Project***. Dr. Anna Gelzer, an arrhythmia specialist, presented at the 2017, Hunt Valley, MD National Specialty health seminar and became interested in our breed and our Borzoi Arrhythmia Project. She contacted Dr. Meurs and they agreed to work together on the project with Dr. Gelzer focusing

on the arrhythmias and Dr. Meurs focused on feasibility for a genetic study. Starting in 2017, all Holter reports that were shared with BCOA were sent to Dr. Gelzer who entered the data in a spread sheet and then consulted with Dr. Meurs regarding the findings. Participation in the Holter Rental Project has been excellent with multiple dogs receiving more than one Holter, including a good number of puppies.

BCOA Borzoi Arrhythmia Project - Phase II

As the Borzoi Arrhythmia Project continued and the data accumulated it became apparent that the arrhythmias that cause Borzoi sudden death were infrequent and transient in nature so that even with 24 hour Holters they were very difficult to find. The Holtered Borzoi who had died of sudden death had Holters that were not alarming or suggestive of malignant arrhythmias. Because we were unable to identify those dogs at risk of a fatal cardiac arrhythmia and those who were not, Dr. Meurs had to leave the project because she had to know which dogs were affected and which were normal for a gene study to be successful. Dr. Gelzer stayed with the Borzoi Arrhythmia Project.

Dr. Gelzer suggested two new avenues of investigation that might help us gain more information. The first of these became the BCOA ***Borzoi Arrhythmia Project Phase II***. The goal of this phase of the Arrhythmia Project was to implant at least three Borzoi with an implantable cardiac loop recording device—or LINQ device. This device would be able to record continually as well as save several arrhythmia events. It was hoped that using these devices more data could be gathered about the nature and frequency of the arrhythmias that cause Borzoi sudden death. The first dog for this project was identified and successfully implanted. The second candidate belonged to a BCOA nonmember. The BHWF agreed to facilitate that implantation by providing funds to pay for expenses. To date two dogs have been implanted with one more identified for implantation.

BHWF Valentine's Fund and Borzoi Heart Necropsy Project

The second initiative suggested by Dr. Gelzer was an investigation into the pathology findings from the hearts of dogs who died from sudden death. Dr. Gelzer provided us with an introduction to a Cardiac Pathology specialist, Dr. Kathleen Kelly who was willing to investigate the hearts of Borzoi. She is not only interested in the hearts of Borzoi who die of sudden death, but also Borzoi who die with known DCM, as well as normal heart healthy borzoi who die of natural or other causes. Her goal is to identify a cause for the sudden deaths as well as develop norms for veterinary pathologists who are doing necropsies on Borzoi hearts.

Because it was unreasonable to ask owners to donate the hearts of their Borzoi who died of sudden death and pay for the expenses resulting from removal, shipping, and necropsy of the heart we realized, to be successful, this initiative must pay for the expenses. The BHWF enthusiastically agreed to take this project on and initiated the ***Valentine's Fund***, named in honor of a beloved Borzoi who died suddenly and unexpectedly while being groomed. These

funds were earmarked to pay for the expenses for those individuals who agreed to submit their dog's heart to the **Borzoï Heart Necropsy Project**. To date 10 Borzoï hearts have been donated, 9 who died of sudden death and 1 who was euthanized due to end stage DCM.

BCOA Borzoï Echocardiogram Project

In 2019, after speaking with Dr. Danielle Steenkamp at an OFA cardiac clinic, Dr. Saunders, Dr. Sykes, and Dr. Wesselowski became interested in investigating Borzoï hearts. Dr. Wesselowski proposed a project where she and her team would do the echos at the National health clinics at three successive National Specialties to gather data for developing norms for Borzoï Cardiac Echos and to assess the types of cardiac disease found in our breed. Unfortunately Covid changed these plans, the 2020 National was canceled and the Texas A&M Cardiology team was unable to attend the Ohio National. In order to begin their investigation, Dr. Wesselowski asked if some Borzoï owners in Texas might be interested in having their dogs echoed. The answer was an enthusiastic, Yes! Thus began the **Borzoï Echocardiogram Project**. They have been echoing Borzoï from Texas a few at a time for the last year and a half thanks to the overwhelming participation of the region's Lone Star Borzoï Club members and other regional Borzoï enthusiasts. There was also interest from far outside of the state of Texas, but unfortunately the team at Texas A&M were unable to accommodate these individuals. Dr. Saunders and Dr. Wesselowski will be providing echos at the 2022 National Specialty Heart Clinic to add to the data for their research.

Possible BCOA Borzoï DCM Research Study

Of all the dogs the team from Texas A&M have echoed to date, 10% have had DCM. Because of owner and breeder cooperation, the team at Texas A&M believe they have the ability to develop a full research study into the genetics of Borzoï DCM. This is at the very beginning of discussions. Dr. Wesselowski will be meeting with the genetics team at Texas A&M to discuss feasibility and cost for such a study. Ginger is initiating talks with CHF to discuss the possibility of using our Borzoï Donor Advised Fund to pay for this research. As we gather more specific information we will be sharing the information with the Board. Danielle Steenkamp has agreed to be the liaison between Dr. Wesselowski and her team and the BCOA Health Committee. This is a good fit because of Danielle's medical knowledge and enthusiasm for the project. She also has good rapport with the cardiologists at Texas A&M. Without her initiative, this study might never have occurred. My deepest thanks to Danielle Steenkamp for her help.

It is important to note that to date, neither Dr. Meurs nor Dr. Gelzer have been paid for the time they have put into evaluating the data on over 200 Borzoï Holters. Using the information coming from the implanted LINQ devices and the cardiac necropsies, Dr. Gelzer hopes to be able to develop a fundable study on the topic of Borzoï Arrhythmias to recoup some of her expenses. We will need to repay the UPenn Vet Cardiology department for the LINQ devices we have implanted as those used were the property of the university. However, at this time, no devices are available for purchase for veterinary use and because there is no official study being done,

there is no budgetary pathway through which funds can be sent. Once this changes I will be asking the Board for permission to use BCOA Health funds to replace the three LINQ devices used in Borzoi.

Dr. Wesselowski and her team have been using local funding for their investigation to date. They are seeking other sources of money, but a genetic study will need substantial funding.

This is an exciting time, but I warn that a research study into the genetics of a disease can be complicated and long. Often there is more than one gene that is the cause of the heart disease. At this time, there are two genes implicated in Doberman DCM, yet those two genes do not explain all cases of DCM in that breed. More research needs to be done to parse out what might be causing the cases of Doberman DCM that are not explained by the two genes found to date. The causes may be genetic, but they may also be caused by other factors. Similarly with Boxer Arrhythmogenic Right Ventricular Cardiomyopathy, the one gene that has been identified to date does not explain the complete picture of Boxer heart disease. One research study suggests that DCM in Great Danes is multifactorial. Because of the history of these breeds, we need to remember that finding the full nature of what causes DCM in Borzoi may need more than one study. Continuing to work with both Dr. Gelzer and Dr. Wesselowski/ Dr. Saunders will help to provide us with more information and a potential for greater understanding of Borzoi heart disease. Persistence and patience will provide us with answers.

I also wish to point out that both with the Dr. Meurs/ Dr. Gelzer team and the Texas A&M team the participation of Borzoi owners / breeders was a very pleasant surprise to them. No matter how much we want research on various health issues in our breed, no research would ever happen without YOU. The Borzoi community truly shows that Borzoi breeders and owners take the health of their hounds seriously and are willing to go far out of their way to help improve the health of our breed for the future. This deserves a great deal of praise! Thank you!

>Attachment: Dr. Wesselowski Status statement. This will be printed in the Aristocrat as well.

Borzoi Health And Welfare Foundation (BHWF)

The BHWF has within its by-laws reserved placement of 2 BCOA appointed members on the BHWF board. I encourage the BCOA board to consider filling these two positions. This would give BCOA a say in disbursement of BHWF monies as this organization grows. BHWF has already been instrumental in the formation of the Valentine's Fund to pay for Borzoi heart necropsies. This initiative is an important aspect in current Borzoi heart disease investigations and has saved BCOA this expense. I believe it is in the best interest for a continued close working relationship between these two organizations.

OFA Quarterly Report

First Quarter (March)

Screening Test	Number normal/ (% Normal)	Number equivocal/ carrier	Number abnormal/ At Risk	Percent equivocal/ abnormal
Advanced Cardiac (ACA)	27 / (81.8%)		1 5 (4 MMVD, 1 SAS/AS)	18.2%
Congenital Cardiac	3 / (100%)		0 0	
Basic Cardiac	5 / (71.4%)		2 0	28.6%
Thyroid	25 / (92.6%)		1 1 (Comp. Autoimmune Thyroiditis)	7.4%
Eyes	35 / (100%)		0 0	
Degenerative Myelopathy	52 / (98.1%)		0 1 At Risk	1.9%
Hips	1 / (100%)		0 0	
Elbows	1 / (100%)		0 0	
Canine Health (new CHICs)	26			
DNA Repository	0			
Dentition	0			

Second Quarter (June)

Screening Test	Number normal/(% Normal)	Number equivocal/ carrier	Number abnormal/ At Risk	Percent equivocal/ abnormal
Advanced Cardiac (ACA)	99 / (90%)		6 5 (2 TVD, 2 DCM, 1 MMVD)	10%
Congenital Cardiac	0		0 0	
Basic Cardiac	9 / (100%)		0 0	
Thyroid	75 / (91.5%)		4 3 (Comp. Autoimmune Thyroiditis)	8.5%

Screening Test	Number normal/(% Normal)	Number equivocal/carrier	Number abnormal/ At Risk	Percent equivocal/ abnormal
Eyes	119 / (100%)		0	0
Degenerative Myelopathy	37 / (100%)		0	0
Hips	0		0	0
Elbows	0		0	0
Canine Health (new CHICs)	62			
DNA Repository	35			
Dentition	7 / (87.5%)		1 (other dental issue)	12.5%

Third Quarter (September)

Screening Test	Number normal/(% Normal)	Number equivocal/carrier	Number abnormal/ At Risk	Percent equivocal/ abnormal
Advanced Cardiac (ACA)	43 / (93.5%)		2	1 (DCM) 6.5%
Congenital Cardiac	0		0	0
Basic Cardiac	3 / (100%)		0	0
Thyroid	36 / (90%)		1	3 (Comp. Autoimmune Thyroiditis) 10%
Eyes	51 / (98.1%)		0	1 Abnormal 1.9%
Degenerative Myelopathy	25 / (100%)		0	0
Hips	2 / (100%)		0	0
Elbows	2 / (100%)		0	0

Screening Test	Number normal/(% Normal)	Number equivocal/carrier	Number abnormal/ At Risk	Percent equivocal/ abnormal
Canine Health (new CHICs)	39			
DNA Repository	1			
Dentition	1 / (100%)		0	

CHIC Requirements

Don't forget that Auscultations alone will not qualify for a CHIC as of June 1, 2021. Borzoi must get an ACA as their cardiac clearance in order to qualify for a CHIC number. Also, do not forget, if you are doing screenings and are seeking a CHIC number for your dog, you MUST mark the box providing OFA with permission to place your dog in the OPEN DATABASE! Do not forget this. Below is the listing of CHIC requirements.

- [Eye Examination](#)
Eye Examination by a boarded ACVO Ophthalmologist [↗](#)
- [Autoimmune thyroiditis](#)
OFA evaluation from an approved laboratory [↗](#)
- [Cardiac Evaluation](#)
Advanced Cardiac Exam [↗](#)
- [Degenerative Myelopathy](#)
DNA based DM test results from an approved lab [↗](#)
- [Hip Dysplasia](#) (Optional)
OFA Evaluation [↗](#)
PennHIP Evaluation (min age 12 months)
- [Elbow Dysplasia](#) (Optional)
OFA Evaluation [↗](#)

2022 National Health Clinics

We will be offering Echocardiograms at this year's clinics provided by Dr's Wesselowski and Saunders from Texas A&M University. The echos will be limited to two dogs per household. A waiting list will be maintained. There will be a price break for BCOA members. Please watch for information on specifics. Dr. Wesselowski will also be presenting at our Health Seminar to

provide information on the Borzoi heart investigation being done by the team at Texas A&M and provide information on cardiac screening tests.

Texas A&M Cardiology Borzoi research update

Sonya R. Wesselowski, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)

Dr. Sykes, Dr. Saunders and I have very much enjoyed our jump into the Borzoi world over the past year, and want to provide an update on our progress and future research goals with regard to this fantastic breed!

We have initiated both prospective and retrospective Borzoi research projects thus far. The prospective project has enrolled approximately 70 dogs to date and will allow us to create breed-specific normal echocardiography reference ranges for Borzoi and to better understand and report the frequency of cardiac diseases found in clinically healthy Borzoi. This project will culminate with Dr. Saunders and me performing echocardiograms at the 2022 Borzoi National Specialty.

The retrospective project we have initiated will allow us to compile data from veterinary cardiologists across the United States who have seen and treated Borzoi at their practices to better quantify the types and severity of cardiac disease that are diagnosed in the Borzoi breed that may require medical intervention.

Additional work that we hope to pursue includes longitudinal assessment of a subset of Borzoi to monitor mild echocardiographic changes (for example: trace or mild valve leaks) and better define whether they may be a variant of normal for this highly athletic breed (similar to what has been reported in athletic humans) versus actual pathology that may go on to progress over time.

Lastly, we have uncovered several cases of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and I am currently engaged in discussions with a geneticist regarding a collaboration to search for a Borzoi-specific dilated cardiomyopathy mutation that could lead to a future genetic test for the breed, if successful. While we have a small internal grant that is funding the current prospective project, we do need to recruit additional financial support to continue to pursue the longitudinal work and the genetic research.

If anyone would like to support our Borzoi research we would gladly accept donations to our Texas A&M Cardiology Heart Trust Fund with an earmark towards Borzoi research. To donate, please visit www.vetmed.tamu.edu/giving/opportunities/heart-trust/ and click on the “Give now” link. **Make sure to add a note in the additional comments box at the bottom of the donation page to let us know you are donating in support of Borzoi clinical research.** You can also contact Monika Blackwell, one of our development officers, at mblackwell@txamfoundation.com for additional help.

We look forward to seeing many of you next year in Texas!

Report from the Obedience/Rally committee

To the BCOA governors.

Below you will find Melissa and my top three recommendations for Obedience/Rally judge for the 2023 BCOA National Specialty. Listed with the recommendations are our personal experiences with the judges as well as a bio that they used in various events that they participated. Please note: Although we have had many interactions with these judges, I want to make it clear that Melissa and I WILL NOT BE COMPETING at the National so as not to raise any questions of conflict of interest.

FIRST CHOICE: Russell Hornfisher – Knoxville, TN hornfisher@aol.com

Mr. Hornfisher is a well-respected AKC Obedience/Rally judge that is in extremely high demand. He has been recognized by the AKC by his selection to judge at the 2019 AKC Rally National Championship and the 2021 Obedience Championship. Mr. Hornfisher has been an approved Obedience judge for ten years and Rally for nine. He has kept a very busy schedule having judge events all around the United States.

Melissa and I have both exhibited and stewarded for Mr. Hornfisher. He is a pleasure to exhibit to and work with in that he shows that he loves what he is doing and appreciates those that compete and work the trials. Most important, Mr. Hornfisher is very passionate to the Novice handler and dog. We have observed several times how he encourages beginners and makes them comfortable. He always announces that the novice handler is the future of the sport. This characteristic is especially important in that the majority of BCOA National competitors are novice ones.

For Rally, Mr. Hornfisher's courses are a delight to run. They flow very smoothly, and he makes allowances for the big dog. His courses are efficient as well in that set up time is minimal from one class the next.

The BCOA should make every effort to obtain Mr. Hornfisher as their 2023 Obedience / Rally judge.

Below is a bio of Mr. Hornfisher that was printed in the 2019 AKC Rally National Championship catalog:

Over thirty years ago I attended dog shows as a reluctant participant. I went only to watch my wife show. When I attended, I read the paper or propped open my briefcase and worked, paying attention to the ring only when my wife was exhibiting. It was very unlikely that I would ever develop into a dog show judge. In 1985, I earned a Master of Science in Organizational Behavior and Development Degree. Requiring several years of hard work, including writing a thesis, and exposure to learning principles I enjoyed, such as Operant Conditioning and Social Learning Theory. Three years later, in an attempt to get better control of a Golden Retriever puppy, I made a fateful offer, "if you are not able to train the puppy, I will." Soon after that, I found myself enrolled in an eight-hour, Terry Arnold dog obedience seminar, where she lectured in the morning on valuable topics including Operant Conditioning, Social Learning Theory and other valuable principles.... I was hooked. Since that time, I have titled dogs in Obedience, Rally, Agility and Tracking. I started with dogs we raised from puppies, moved to adopting rescues, then fostering dogs, many with issues developing after a disadvantaged start in life. The combined experience has taught me much about dogs and people. The issues, unique to each dog, make training and earning performance titles both challenging and interesting. Professionally I have worked in the orthotic and prosthetic industry for over 25 years. The dog training experience has allowed me to expand professionally, led me to develop business related presentations and publish articles with such titles: "How to Treat You Customers like a Dog", "Who Moved my Dog Dish?", "Selling like a Dog", "Overhead Projectors and Golden Retrievers". My recent endeavor has been publishing a book, "How to Treat Your Employees like a Dog". Who would have anticipated that the guy sitting ring side with his head buried in the newspaper would eventually become an AKC Obedience and Rally judge?

SECOND CHOICE: Carol Mett – Savannah, GA carolmett@aol.com

Mrs. Mett is also a highly regarded Obedience / Rally judge who is in high demand. Having been an Obedience judge for over 20 years and a Rally judge for 12 years, she is working at trials at sites all over the country. Mrs. Mett was selected to be an Obedience judge at the 2018 National Obedience Championship.

Melissa and I have exhibited to her in both the Obedience and Rally rings. She is a well organized and very personable judge. She is so supportive to the handler and really wants everyone to succeed. When a dog does not qualify in obedience, she is very empathetic to the handler as she knows how much training is involved to successfully compete. She will take the time and even make suggestions to help the handler as she herself is an experienced handler.

In Rally, Mrs. Mett is also a very efficient judge. Her courses flow very well and are nested to allow a fast conversion between the different class levels. She is flexible and very aware of the needs of the larger dog as she tries to accommodate requests by handlers with the larger dogs (Borzoi) to make her courses easier to travel through.

Finally, she likes the Borzoi breed. She expressed that to me after the completion of a competition.

Below is a copy of Mrs. Mett's bio as printed in the 2019 AKC National Obedience Championship catalog:

Mrs. Carol Mett was fortunate to have been born into a very dog friendly family. She grew up with almost every breed and size of dog known to man. Her mother knew she was destined for the dog world when she never wanted to play with dolls but preferred stuffed animals. Carol began grooming after receiving a Miniature Poodle for high school graduation. She took her Poodle to college with her and little did she know at the time this would be the beginning of a 40-year career in the dog business. Her interest in competition Obedience began when she gave her daughter, Lisa, a cute black Labrador Retriever puppy for her 12th birthday. The "cute" began to wear off after 2 weeks and they soon realized they had a bundle of fur that was outsmarting the entire family. Carol enrolled the puppy in a local Obedience class in the park and transformed the cute puppy into her first Utility dog. Over the past 30 years she has been showing Labradors, Golden Retrievers and her husband's Dalmatians in Obedience, Rally, Agility and Field competitions. Carol stewarded for her husband for a few years, and decided to join him in the judging field. Carol was also successful and enjoyed showing in the conformation ring. She truly loves both sides of the clipboard. She has been truly blessed to have her lifelong hobby turned into a successful business over the past 40 years. When she is not judging, training students, and showing, Carol is very busy with the day-to-day operation of her boarding, daycare, and training facility. It is her desire that every dog owner love and appreciate their canine companion as much as she does. Carol has watched amazing friendships develop among many of her students, all because of their love of dogs. One of the greatest compliments she acknowledges is for one of her students to beat her in the ring. Carol is honored to be invited to judge the 24th AKC National Obedience Championship. Best of luck to all of the competing teams, she hopes that everyone has a lot of fun –she knows she will.

THIRD CHOICE: Ted McCall – Fairview, NC tedgmccall@charter.net

Mr. McCall is a very popular Obedience/Rally judge in the Southeast and the Middle Atlantic states, although he has had assignments throughout the United States. Mr. McCall has been a fully approved Obedience judge since 2009 and a Rally judge since 2005.

Melissa and I have exhibited to Mr. McCall many times in both Obedience and Rally. We in fact traveled 350 miles one time to attend a couple of his rally trials. As a judge, he is very supportive of the handler and always encourages them. Mr. McCall has a wonderful sense of humor and keeps the competition very light spirited. In Rally, he designs courses that flow very easily and makes adjustments for large dogs. His courses are also nested so that there is not a lot of work to go from one level to another.

Below is a bio that I found when he was the judge for the 2017 American Belgian Tervoren Club National Specialty:

I first became involved with dog training nearly 30 years ago when I adopted a young German Shepherd and took her to a local obedience class in our community. "Heidi" was a joy to train, and with encouragement from the instructor, we ventured into the show ring; I was hooked! Eventually, I fell in love with the affable Golden Retriever, and competed for nearly 10 years with "Chase"; together we achieved a perfect 200 and an OTCH before cancer took him away. Currently, I am having fun training my new Golden boy, "T", who promises to provide plenty of adventure, both inside and outside the show ring.

After showing for many years, I became interested in judging, and have been an AKC Obedience and Rally judge for over 15 years. I truly have fun with judging, and enjoy watching the different handlers and their dogs perform together as a team.

I am a member of the Sandlapper GRC and the GRC of America. I have also been active in GR rescue. I teach weekly basic puppy and beginner classes at Companion Dog Training School in Asheville. Dog training has given me many wonderful opportunities to make new friends and to grow as a person in ways I would not otherwise have had.



Borzoi Club of America, Inc. Donor Advised Fund
3rd Quarter 2021 Statement (1/1/2021 - 9/30/2021)

1/1/2021 Balance	\$80,708.15
Contributions	\$11,019.92
PPCPP Contribution	\$557.03
Investment Earnings/(Losses)	\$8,234.20
Research Support*	\$390.59

9/30/2021 Balance

\$100,128.71

*To obtain a history of your organization's research support or to learn about research areas in need of sponsorship, please email chfgrants@akcchf.org

Dear Ron,

Your organization's 2021 third quarter AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Donor Advised Fund (DAF) statement is above, showing activity through 9/30/2021 and including 2020 Purina Parent Club Partnership Program (PPCPP) earnings.

We thank all Donor Advised Fund holders for their continued support of CHF's mission to advance the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound scientific research. In 2021, we have awarded \$2.9 million in new studies working to treat and find the genetic basis of eye diseases, improve diagnosis of tick-borne diseases, and fight cancer in all dogs. Active research grants needing support can be viewed in the [2021 Research Grants Portfolio](#) or searched by research program area on [our website](#). **Please contact chf@akcchf.org or call 888-682-9696 to discuss specific projects.**

You can also make your important recommendation for sponsorship by completing a [research sponsorship form](#) to support innovative canine health research. Grant sponsorships at a level greater than \$2,500 earn regular scientific progress updates on these critical studies.

Thank you for your continued partnership!