



The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

## STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT



To attend the  
AKC Canine Health Foundation  
2025 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference  
Sponsored by Nestle Purina PetCare  
August 7-9, 2025  
Washington Duke Inn, Durham, NC

### Conference Background

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) is the largest nonprofit organization worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines. Every two years, the CHF hosts a Canine Health Conference to update donors, responsible breeders, dog lovers, and veterinary team members on research progress and the latest news in canine health.

**"Science for Healthy, Vibrant Dogs"** is the theme of the 2025 National Parent Club Canine Health Conference (NPCCHC), the 15th program of this biennial event, marking CHF's 30th anniversary year and celebrating it near the organization's headquarters.

## **Confirmed Conference Topics and Speakers:**

1. Common Questions for Active Dog Owners - Martha G. Cline, DVM, DACVIM
2. Exercise Programs for Pet Dogs - Cynthia M. Otto, DVM, PhD, DACVECC
3. Senior Sporting Dog Health - RuthAnn Lobos, DVM, CCRT, CVAT
4. Exercise-Induced Hyperthermia Management - Cynthia M. Otto, DVM, PhD, DACVECC
5. Mobility in Canine Healthy Aging - Christopher Frye, DVM, DACVSMR
6. Epilepsy Research - Karen Munana, DVM, DACVIM (Neurology)
7. Chronic Kidney Disease Biomarkers - Autumn N. Harris, DVM, DACVIM
8. CAR T Therapy for Canine Hematologic Malignancies - Matthew Atherton BVSc, PhD, DECVIM
9. Canine Congestive Heart Failure - Jessica Ward, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology)
10. Pain Catastrophizing - Margaret Gruen, DVM, MVPH, PhD, DACVB
11. Elbow Dysplasia Diagnostics - Gabriela Baers, DVM, DACVR, DACVR-EDI
12. Canine Infectious Respiratory Disease - David Needle, DVM, DACVP
13. Respiratory Function Grading Scheme – Kathleen Ham, DVM, DACVS & Kelley Thieman, DVM, DACVS
14. Biastomycosis – Jennifer Reinhart, DVM, DACVIM, DACVP

And more!!

## **OFA Student Travel Grant**

The Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA), a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving companion animal health through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease, is offering a travel grant to one student from each of the U.S. accredited veterinary schools.

### **Grant Details:**

- Coverage: The OFA will cover all conference-related travel expenses, to include travel to Durham (airfare or mileage), any meals not part of the conference, and any other travel related expenses such as airport parking, or transportation to the airport.
- The AKC and the AKC CHF will cover conference registration, and lodging (double occupancy).

This conference is an outstanding opportunity for students to interact and network with fellow veterinary students, veteran dog breeders and club members, practicing veterinarians, canine health research scientists, and professional staff and board members from the OFA, AKC CHF, and Purina.

## Conference Schedule Highlights

- **Thursday, August 7, 2025:**
  - Conference Welcome
  - Presentations on active dog health, mobility, and aging
  - Evening Welcome Reception & Mixer
- **Friday, August 8, 2025:**
  - Presentations on veterinary topics, including epilepsy, kidney disease, and heart failure
  - Optional Breakout Sessions
  - Veterinary Student Dinner Sponsored by OFA
- **Saturday, August 9, 2025:**
  - Presentations on respiratory health, breed-specific testing, and infectious diseases
  - Dinner and Asa Mays, DVM Award Presentation to Dr. Jason Stull
  - Conference Wrap-up

The conference begins on Thursday afternoon and runs through Saturday evening. Students will have access to all conference sessions, as well as the planned meals, events, and receptions.

On Friday evening, the OFA Board of Directors will host a dinner for all students to familiarize them with the OFA, and the role it plays with the breeder community in breeding healthier dogs.

## Grant Requirements

As part of the grant, each selected student will be required to:

- Organize and deliver a conference summary to fellow students upon return
- Each student will receive a \$200 stipend to cover summary-related expenses

# Pre-Requisites and Selection

## Eligibility

- Must be a full-time student at an accredited U.S. veterinary school
- Selection based on:
  - Academic achievement
  - Experience
  - Involvement in purebred dogs
  - Future veterinary profession interests

## Application Details

- **Application Deadline:** May 23, 2025
- **Selection Announcement:** June, 2025

*More detailed information as it becomes available, including a link to the application form, can be found on the OFA's website at: [www.ofa.org/2025NPCCHC/](http://www.ofa.org/2025NPCCHC/)*

## About the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals

The OFA is a not-for-profit 501c(3), founded in 1966, with the mission to improve the health and wellbeing of companion animals through a reduction in the incidence of genetic disease. Its specific objectives are:

- To collate and disseminate information concerning orthopedic and genetic diseases of animals.
- To advise, encourage and establish control programs to lower the incidence of orthopedic and genetic diseases.
- To encourage and finance research in orthopedic and genetic disease in animals.
- To receive funds and make grants to carry out these objectives.

The OFA provides radiographic evaluation by board certified veterinary radiologists for canine hip and elbow dysplasia and maintains the world's largest database on canine health screening results to assist breeders in making more informed breeding decisions.

## About the AKC Canine Health Foundation

Since 1995, the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) has become the largest funder of exclusively canine health research globally. The Foundation is

dedicated to improving the health of all dogs through knowledge and discovery by funding scientific research and supporting the dissemination of health information. To date, CHF has invested over \$75M to create a world where all dogs lead healthy, vibrant lives.

**More detailed information can be found on CHF's website at:**

[www.akcCHF.org/npcchc](http://www.akcCHF.org/npcchc)