



THE KENNEL CLUB
Making a difference for dogs

NEWS RELEASE



KENNEL CLUB CHARITABLE TRUST GIVES HALF A MILLION TO DOG HEALTH PROJECTS

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust is pleased to announce that it has set aside a minimum of £500,000 over the next two years, for research projects that will help to improve the health of pedigree dogs.

The money has been made available for research projects that will help to improve the health and quality of life of pedigree dogs, with preference being given to those projects that address conditions that are painful or which shorten a dog's lifespan.

Letters have already been written to a number of Universities, the Animal Health Trust and the Royal Veterinary College, so that they can apply for funding towards their projects, which are expected to range from £20,000 to £100,000.

The Kennel Club Charitable Trust has given more than £3 million over the past 21 years to dog welfare charities and to support research into canine diseases.



Caroline Kisko, Kennel Club spokesperson, said: “The money that has been set aside for research into dog diseases underlines the Kennel Club’s serious and long-standing commitment to the health and welfare of pedigree dogs.

“The vast majority of pedigree dogs are healthy but we believe that every single dog should be given the chance to lead happy, healthy lives and we have been at the forefront of the work that is being done to make this a reality.

“We look forward to working with the experts in their field who, as science and technology advances, are increasingly able to find new tests that will help us to identify and prevent dog diseases in the future.”

ENDS

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- The Kennel Club Charitable Trust has helped to fund research into dog diseases. The Kennel Club worked with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Animal Health Trust on the Purebred Dog Health Survey, the largest of its kind in the world, which showed that the vast majority of pedigree dogs will not suffer from conditions that are detrimental to their quality of life. Research such as this has also enabled the Kennel Club to identify those problems that do exist, so that preventative tests and treatments can be developed in the future.
- The Kennel Club has already helped to improve **dog health thanks to running health testing schemes**, in conjunction with the British Veterinary Association, for hip and elbow dysplasia and eye diseases. The Kennel Club publishes the results of these tests quarterly and over the past 10 years breeders have spent over £20 million on hip scoring alone. The result has been to significantly improve the hip quality of 19 of the 20 most commonly tested breeds, with the other, which already had the best average score of all, remaining stable.
- **The Kennel Club is working towards the elimination of dog diseases through DNA tests**, which have been developed thanks to advances in science and the work and support of the Kennel Club and its Charitable Trust. One example of how this has helped is in the elimination of canine leucocyte adhesion deficiency (CLAD) in Irish Setters that caused early death in puppies, which was

eradicated through the concerted efforts of both the Kennel Club and Irish Setter breeders.

- **The Kennel Club funds research into breed specific diseases.** This includes a grant to the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, which has been distributed to the Royal Veterinary College and the University of Cambridge, to fund research into syringomyelia. This is a disease which the CKCS Club identified as being of concern for the breed some five years ago, and for which no one is yet sure of the mode of inheritance.