



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
**CANINE HEALTH
FOUNDATION**
PREVENT TREAT & CURE®

Humane Use of Animals Policy

The mission of American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc. (the “Foundation”) is to advance the health of all dogs and their owners by funding sound scientific research and to support the dissemination of health information to prevent treat and cure canine disease. As such, Foundation funded research often requires the involvement of animals in research studies. All studies receiving funding from the Foundation must follow the Foundation’s Humane Use of Animals Policy. This policy ensures that every animal involved in a Foundation-supported project will receive compassionate care throughout the study. The general policy of the Foundation is that we will not fund projects which require euthanasia as an endpoint or induction of disease or injury. Furthermore, the Foundation will not fund any project that induces or allows pain or distress, other than short-term minor pain or distress that can be controlled by appropriate anesthetics, analgesics, and/or nursing care.

The Foundation Humane Use of Animals Policy is as follows:

1. A description of biological samples, tissues, etc., how they will be used and where and how they will be acquired must be included in the grant application. The Foundation requires that all proposals have the approval of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) for any Foundation-supported study regardless of the Institution’s requirements. Use of animals shall be humane and consistent with applicable laws and regulations and with standards established by local governing bodies whose function is the oversight of animals in research (e.g., IACUC). When a standard IACUC is unavailable (e.g., foreign country, veterinary practice, animal ranch/sanctuary, etc.), the Foundation requires the review of the proposed animal use by an equivalent institutional review committee/agency or an established collaborating institution’s IACUC. All animal care and IACUC member structures shall, at a minimum, meet or exceed the guidelines set forth in the U.S. government’s Animal Welfare Act (Title 9 CFR Subchapter A – Animal Welfare) and/or further required regional and institutional regulations.
2. Investigators and animal care staff shall have appropriate qualifications and experience for conducting procedures on living animals per IACUC approval. Each investigator on the study shall provide the required biographical sketch indicating those qualifications and experience as well as ensure appropriate qualifications of all staff associated with the funded research in a Key Personnel Justification document.
3. The Foundation requires IACUC, or equivalent institutional review, approval for all clinical trials even though such approval may not be a requirement of the institution.
4. The Foundation shall require informed owner/responsible agency consent in all clinical/research trials. An informed owner/responsible agency consent form of acceptable standards must be approved by the Foundation prior to funding.



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5. If a project involves live animals, the following should be addressed:
 - a. Provide details of the animals involved and justify the number of animals required for the project.
 - b. Explain how the animals will be acquired and verify that the animals are suitable for the study (e.g., have no physiologic, physical, or pharmacologic issues that would interfere with results). Institutional colony dogs and pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamics studies will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - c. If the project causes transient pain or distress, the following must be addressed:
 - i. The experimental design must be defended
 - ii. Information must be provided on the nature of the pain or distress and how it will be controlled and treated
 - iii. Justify that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives and demonstrate the critical significance of the disease or condition to be studied for improving the health of dogs
6. If a study utilizes archived samples, they must have been collected with informed owner consent or have IACUC approval covering the original collection of those samples.
7. The Foundation reserves the right to perform announced or unannounced site visits and/or independent audits for program assessment and/or to investigate concerns dealing with animal welfare issues.
8. Funding requests shall include statistical evidence that the number of animals proposed in the study is appropriate and minimally adequate to achieve the proposed results. It is also imperative that scientists requesting support shall review relevant literature (local and foreign) to prevent unnecessary replication of research, unnecessary utilization of animals or unnecessary utilization of health study funds.
9. Every animal shall have compassionate care, comfort and protection from abuse and unnecessary pain and distress. Investigators shall also minimize stress and fear in animals.
10. The Foundation and/or a designated party shall evaluate each proposal for scientific merit, relevance for optimizing animal health and consideration of animal welfare (minimizing discomfort, distress, pain).
11. The Foundation shall not fund health studies on an animal that require euthanasia as the study endpoint.
12. The Foundation discourages health studies that require unnecessary invasive procedures. Invasive procedures are only permissible when 1) the nature of the disease or condition to be studied is of such significance for improving animal health that an invasive procedure is justified (investigators shall be required to address invasive procedures in all Foundation grant applications); and 2) meaningful information can be obtained no other way (i.e., alternative models have been thoroughly



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evaluated). Examples of permissible procedures include those standard, yet invasive, medical procedures, such as laparoscopic or endoscopic biopsy.

13. The Foundation considers euthanasia acceptable, with informed consent of the owner or responsible agent, when an animal develops unanticipated illness or injury that results in pain and suffering that cannot be alleviated with standard methods. All grant applications must describe the disposition of the euthanized animals upon completion of the project.
14. The Foundation reserves the right to terminate funding of a study if progress is deemed unsatisfactory or if there are concerns about animal well-being.
15. Exceptions to the above policy may be requested jointly by the Chief Scientific Officer and Chairman of the Grants Committee and will require the Foundation's Board of Directors Executive Committee approval.

Questions regarding compliance with the Foundation's Humane Use of Animals Policy should be directed to chfgrants@akcchf.org.

I have read and will abide by the Foundation's Humane Use of Animals Policy:

Name (Please Print)

Signature

Date

Approved by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors 12/2/2012