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/ Focused Research Opportunity: Juvenile Cataracts in Golden Retrievers

Focused Research Opportunity: Juvenile Cataracts in Golden Retrievers

Application Deadline



The request for proposals follows a two-tiered system of competitive review. Applicants must submit a Pre-Proposal Application through the online application system that demonstrates meritorious work closely aligned with CHF's mission to prevent, treat, and cure canine disease. A review committee will invite some Pre-Proposal applicants to submit a Full Proposal due at 11:59PM ET on Tuesday, March 9, 2027.

Applications will be reviewed and awards may be determined on a rolling basis upon submission.

Pre-Proposal Due:	Tuesday, Nov 3rd
Proposal Invite Issued:	~Friday, Dec 18th
Full Proposal Due:	Tuesday, March 9th unless otherwise noted
Notifications:	May – June 2027

OAK

For studies **>\$30,000** including 15% maximum indirect costs.

Start Oak Pre-Proposal
(<https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/9c56ef11-fcde-4801-b75f-c35404a8ce6f>)

ACORN

For studies up to **\$30,000** including 15% maximum indirect costs.

Start Acorn Pre-Proposal
(<https://bbgm-apply.yourcausegrants.com/apply/programs/9c56ef11-fcde-4801-b75f-c35404a8ce6f>)

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Scope

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) invites Pre-Proposal Applications for research focused on juvenile cataracts in Golden Retrievers.

This funding opportunity is made possible through the generosity of a dedicated donor, the **Golden Retriever Foundation** (<https://www.goldenretrieverfoundation.org/>).

The opportunity supports research to advance understanding of the causes, development, and prevention of **juvenile cataracts in Golden Retrievers**.

CHF welcomes innovative approaches that must address both the genetic basis of juvenile cataracts and their functional impact on vision and quality of life, including but not limited to:

1. **Genetic basis and inheritance:** Investigating the genetic basis and inheritance patterns of juvenile cataracts in Golden Retrievers.
2. **Functional vision and quality of life:** Evaluating the impact of juvenile cataracts on functional vision and quality of life as affected dogs age, including:
 - Whether the cataracts progress and cause increased impairment over time.
 - Whether some juvenile cataracts progress to cause functional impairment and others do not.
 - Whether clinical, genetic and/or other features differentiate those that progress from those that do not.

Research Focus Area

This award aims to promote studies leading to significant advancements in degenerative myelopathy, under CHF's **eye health**

(<https://www.akcchf.org/research/research-portfolio/program-area/eye-health-research/>) research program area

Project Budget

Maximum total budget: up to \$160,000. Both Acorn (\$30,000 maximum including 15% maximum indirect costs) and Oak (\$30,000+ including 15% maximum indirect costs) grant proposals that can be completed within the budget will be accepted for review.

Project Period

Project duration should be appropriate to the proposed scope, objectives, and research activities. Since the nature and scope of proposed projects vary, the duration of project timelines also varies.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria

Pre-Proposal Applications and invited Full Proposal Applications must align with the AKC Canine Health Foundation's mission to improve the health of all dogs through research and knowledge discovery. Proposed research should be scientifically rigorous and contribute to the understanding, prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of canine disease.

Applicants must:

- Follow the instructions provided on the **Grant Submission and Report Template** (<https://www.akcCHF.org/investigator-opportunities/research-tools-templates/>). Application requirements are strictly enforced; submissions that do not comply may be declined or delayed.
- Adhere to the Foundation's Humane Use of Animals Policy and **eligibility requirements** (<https://www.akcCHF.org/investigator-opportunities/how-to-apply/funding-eligibility/>).
- Consider addressing the suggested criteria provided in blue font in the application template. While these criteria are not required, applicants are strongly encouraged to address them fully.

Rising Researchers (<https://www.akcCHF.org/investigator-opportunities/rising-researcher/>): Applications from Rising Researchers are being accepted during this funding cycle. Applicants should review the Rising Researcher program details to ensure all proposal elements are included.

Early Career Investigators (<https://www.akcCHF.org/investigator-opportunities/early-career-investigator/>): Applications from Early Career Investigators are being accepted during this funding cycle. Applicants applying as Early Career Investigators must also meet the following requirements:

- Principal investigators must have a DVM (or VMD) and/or a PhD and a demonstrated interest in pursuing a career in canine health research.
- Applicants should be within 6 years after the date of completion of training at the time of submission. Training includes DVM, PhD, or post-graduate studies including residency programs.
- A letter of institutional appointment should be provided from the institution's dean or research administration official assuring the principal investigator's protected research time for development as an independent researcher. The letter must also address mentorship, career development opportunities, and other support available to promote the success of the applicant as a thriving investigator.
- A letter of support from a mentor must address mentorship, career development opportunities, and other support available to promote the success of the applicant's project. This letter must also include a statement that the mentor has reviewed the application prior to submission.

Collaborative, cross-disciplinary teams are welcome.

Pre-Proposal Application Requirements

Pre-proposals must be submitted electronically through the CHF Applicant Portal using the current AKC Canine Health Foundation Pre-Proposal Template.

- The pre-proposal is limited to three pages, with one additional page permitted for Literature Cited (maximum four pages total).
- Applicants should use the provided template without modifying the formatting, font size, margins, or page layout.

Submissions that exceed the page limit or do not follow the template requirements may be declined or delayed.

Review Process

- Pre-proposals will undergo scientific peer review by CHF's Scientific Review Committee.
- Applicants whose Pre-Proposal Applications are selected to advance will be invited to submit a Full Proposal Application, which will undergo scientific peer review and evaluation by CHF's Scientific Review Committee.

Contact

Administrative and scientific inquiries regarding this RFP should be directed to Programs Staff at chfgrants@akcCHF.org (<mailto:chfgrants@akcCHF.org>) or the appropriate contacts listed below.

Scientific Contact

Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, PhD, DACVP

Chief Executive Officer

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