



**AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®**

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: July 31, 2023

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THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF THE 'AKC PUREBRED PRESERVATION BANK'

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club (AKC®), a not-for-profit organization, the world's largest purebred dog registry and leading advocate for dogs, is pleased to announce the formation of the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank, a 501 C3, not-for-profit canine genetic material repository primarily focused on frozen semen.

The mission of the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank (AKCPPB) is to ensure the viability of purebred dogs both now and in the future, particularly in low population breeds. While coordinating efforts with non-profit breed-specific clubs, the AKCPPB will educate breeders, clubs, and the public about the importance of safeguarding frozen semen and protecting purebred dog breeds for future decades.

The project began in 2021, with the recommendation from AKC's President and CEO Dennis B. Sprung that AKC explore establishing a frozen semen program which would increase gene pools, ensure saving of quality producers, and make it easy for each Parent Club to take this step for their breed. There is no cost to the owner/donor or Parent Club to donate genetic material.

"The preservation of purebred dogs is at the core of the AKC's mission," said Dr. Charles Garvin, Chairman of the AKCPPB. "Preserving the genetic materials of our dogs, via frozen semen, will undoubtedly prove valuable for breed preservation, reducing the risk of extinction in breeds with lower popularity and allow us to do the important work of improving our breeds. The AKC is pleased to offer this valuable service and look forward to the many ways it will enhance the legacy of our beloved breeds."

Preservation of genetic material is not just for the breeds with lower-than-average levels of breeding activity. Any breed could be susceptible to genetic bottlenecks or difficulties as the discovery of new diseases emerges or other crises arise. Storing diverse genetic material could address unknown future health concerns and rejuvenate breeding programs.

To learn more about the AKCPPB, please visit: <https://akcppb.org>

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About the American Kennel Club

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its more than 5,000 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 25,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred and mixed breed dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests.

Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite, the AKC Museum of the Dog, and the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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