



***PRESS RELEASE***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***AKC HUMANE FUND ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF THE 2023  
SIR JOHN D. SPURLING, OBE, KCVO SCHOLARSHIP***

**New York, NY** – The AKC® Humane Fund, Inc.<sup>SM</sup> is thrilled to announce the 2023 recipients of the Sir John D. Spurling Scholarship, celebrating the human-canine bond. Each year, the AKC Humane Fund awards five full-time students enrolled in courses of study that contribute to the well-being of dogs and the advancement of responsible pet ownership.

The scholarship is named in honor of Sir John D. Spurling, founder of PetPartners, Inc. which provides comprehensive and affordable pet health insurance to pet owners throughout the United States.

“These five outstanding students are the future of exemplary pet care professionals,” said Doug Ljungren, President of the AKC Humane Fund. “Each one of them has demonstrated their dedication to higher education and a passion for animal welfare are important to the AKC Humane Fund. We are pleased to award them with these scholarships and are excited to see what they do in the future.”

The AKC Humane Fund awards \$2,500 to each of the five scholarship recipients, payable as tuition assistance to accredited institutions in which each student is enrolled in courses of study focusing on the care of pets.

**The 2023 recipients are:**

Kennedi Christina Crouch Robinson-Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Becca Nicole Contestabile- Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Steven Roert Hinkle- Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine

Lauren Lucille Thielmann-Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine

Rory Bi-University of Massachusetts Amherst

For more about other AKC Humane Fund grants, visit [www.akchumanefund.org](http://www.akchumanefund.org).

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**The AKC Humane Fund<sup>SM</sup>** promotes responsible pet ownership through education, outreach and grant-making. Through its programs, the AKC Humane Fund supports Parent Club Rescue activities; assists shelters for domestic abuse victims that permit pets and provides resources for responsible dog ownership education. Contributions to the AKC Humane Fund are fully tax deductible as allowed by law under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code.

**The American Kennel Club**, founded in 1884, 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 22,000 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 and the AKC Museum of the Dog. For more information, visit [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

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