

Advancing Canine Sports Medicine for the Health and Longevity of Dalmatians

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) invites the Dalmatian Club of America Foundation to support the Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program, which develops board-certified veterinary specialists dedicated to keeping active dogs healthy and sound throughout their lives.

Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation is a newer recognized veterinary specialty focused on injury prevention, performance optimization, and recovery for canine athletes, working, and all dogs. For high-energy, athletic breeds like Dalmatians, this specialty brings advanced expertise in biomechanics, conditioning, and rehabilitation whether for dogs competing in performance events or simply living active lives with their families. These skills also extend to improving mobility and comfort for aging dogs, supporting quality of life well into the senior years.

Residency programs are three years in length, with rigorous clinical training and research components. In July 2025, the first programs through CHF-funding launched at the University of Pennsylvania and Colorado State University (read more about the launch [here](#)). Another will begin at Cornell University in July 2026. These programs ensure a growing pipeline of veterinary specialists who can deliver evidence-based care, develop innovative treatments, and share best practices with the broader veterinary community.

Support from the Dalmatian Club of America Foundation will:

- Train the next generation of canine sports medicine specialists.
- Advance veterinary care for performance and companion Dalmatians alike.
- Create lasting impact by supporting a program that will influence canine health for decades to come.
- Join other breed clubs and foundations leading canine health research including the Golden Retriever Foundation, Border Terrier Club of America, and Portuguese Water Dog Foundation.

Your contribution will help ensure Dalmatian, and dogs of all breed, receive the specialized care they deserve to live active, healthy lives.

Please reach out to Dr. Garvin or andrea@akcchf.org with more questions.

