



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

637 Wyckoff Ave., Suite 336, Wyckoff, NJ 07481 • www.winnfelinefoundation.org
Toll Free 888-9MEOWIN (888-963-6946) • Local Phone 201-275-0624 • Fax 877-933-0939

Milestones in Feline Health

BY DR. SUSAN LITTLE, BETTY WHITE AND DR. VICKI THAYER

Along with Winn's remarkable accomplishments, which can be read about in the following yearly milestones, comes the responsibility to grow and innovate to meet future needs. Winn has expanded its ability to share information about feline health. We also continue to respond to the changing needs of feline health care, concentrating on funding the most important research projects each year.

Years 1968 through 1995

1968

The CFA Foundation is established. Charter officers are Robert H. Winn, president; Elizabeth Freret, secretary; Jean Rose, treasurer. CFA appropriates \$100 for the foundation, plus \$25 to record the charter in Washington, D.C.

1971

The foundation's name is changed to the Robert H. Winn Foundation to honor CFA's longtime attorney and advisor after his death.

The first grant is awarded for \$1000 to help veterinarians at the University of California, Davis, re-establish a cat research colony that had been decimated by feline infectious peritonitis (FIP).

1973-1979

Rosemonde S. Peltz, MD, serves as president.

1979

The first Symposium on Feline Health is held in New Orleans, spearheaded by Joan Miller.

1980-1996

Joan Miller serves as President

1982

The procedure for awarding breed-related study grants is established.

The first Kal-Kan calendar of CFA national award-winning cats (1982-1987) is produced, with proceeds benefiting Winn.

Echocardiography is developed to diagnose feline heart disease, with help from a Winn grant.

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1985

The Winn Endowment Fund is established. The income is used to fund feline health studies, conferences and related expenses.

1987

A Winn-funded study proves that taurine deficiency is a cause of dilated cardiomyopathy and manufacturers change the formulation of cat foods to correct this serious problem.

A Winn-funded researcher identifies and defines the feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

A grant for ongoing work on fungal infections is awarded by Winn. The research leads to better treatment and prevention strategies.

1988

Cats Chicago holds the first benefit cat show for Winn and donates \$20,000.

The first of five Purina/CFA Invitational Shows is held, resulting in total contributions to Winn of more than \$180,000.

Winn award the first grant to identify genetic mutations that cause disease.

Winn is represented at an American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) convention for the first time.

Winn-funded research leads to the development of the small cuff to measure blood pressure in cats.

1989

The first Endowment Fund study is awarded.

The genetics of blood groups in cats is determined, with help from a grant from Winn

Winn awards more than \$100,000 in study grants for the first time.

1991

In conjunction with the AVMA, Winn funds a study investigating early-age altering of kittens, proving its safety.

Winn begins recognizing cumulative donors on the Winn Donor Tree.

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1993

Winn reaches the milestones of \$1 million in grants awarded and \$1 million in donations received.

In conjunction with the University of California, Davis, Winn co-chairs the First International Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) and Feline Enteric Coronavirus Workshop.

1994

The Robert H. Winn Foundation is renamed the Winn Feline Foundation.

1995

CFA donates \$13,000 to Winn from the CFA International Show, and an additional \$15,000 to defray the foundation's administrative costs.

Winn receives the largest individual donation -- \$5000 from Joanne Thompson in memory of her husband, Don Thompson.

Winn receives one of the largest club donations -- \$10,000 from the Garden State Cat Club.

Winn awards the Regional Outstanding Veterinarian Award to Karen L. Hess, DVM, North Atlantic Region.

Years 1996 through 2005

1996-2005

Hilary Helmrich serves as president.

1996

Winn sponsors the AVMA Feline Excellence in Research Award. The first recipient is Elisabeth Zenger, DVM, PhD, DACVIM.

1997

In conjunction with the AVMA, the second Winn Feline Foundation Excellence in Research Award is awarded to Mark Peterson, DVM, DACVIM.

Two large bequests are received from the estate of Edward Terrizzi and the estate of Joanne Thompson.

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1998

Winn co-sponsors the First International Feline Genetic Diseases Conference at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

The Winn Feline Foundation Excellence in Research Award goes to Mary Tompkins, DVM, PhD.

The Winn website makes its debut: www.winnfelinehealth.org.

1999

The Winn Endowment Fund reaches the half-million-dollar mark.

Winn introduces the Veterinary Memorial Program and the Planned Giving Program, both unveiled at the CFA International Show.

A Winn-funded study by Deborah Greco, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, demonstrates the efficacy of a high-protein/low-carbohydrate diet to treat diabetic cats.

2000

Winn co-sponsors the Second International Feline Genetic Diseases Conference at the University of California, Davis.

2001

Winn surveys exhibitors at the CFA International Cat Show to determine the cat health issues that are of most concern.

Donations for Winn are received from the Friskies Roundtables for Breeders.

2002

Winn co-sponsors the Second International Conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

Winn establishes the Ricky Fund for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) research, through the efforts of Steve and Robin Dale to memorialize their Devon Rex, Ricky.

Winn hires its first executive director. Cumulative grant awards from Winn exceed \$2 million.

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2003

Winn co-sponsors the Feline Genetics Extravaganza at the University of California, Davis, and the Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conference at Tufts University.

Winn publishes its first newsletter, *Winn News*.

Winn qualifies for the Combined Federal Campaign, a giving program for federal and military personnel.

Winn begins administering feline health study grants for the Miller Trust.

The CFA Siamese Breed Council donates funds for a breed-related study of feline mammary cancer.

2004

Winn co-sponsors the Feline Genetics Extravaganza Conference at the University of California, Davis, and the Third International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

Winn introduces the Estate Planning Program, which encourages cat lovers to include Winn in their wills.

Winn-sponsored research identifies a genetic mutation responsible for feline polycystic kidney disease.

The Winn Endowment Fund reaches \$1 million.

Winn initiates the Virtual Memorial Program, a section on its website for people to memorialize their cats.

Years 2005 to 2009

2005-2009

Susan Little, DVM, DABVP (feline), becomes Winn president.

2005

Winn co-sponsors the Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conference at Tufts University.

Winn-funded research leads to the identification of a genetic mutation causing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in Maine Coon Cats.

Interest in breed-related studies increases among cat lovers and fanciers.

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Steve Dale is awarded the first Winn Feline Foundation Media Award for significant service to Winn and for promoting feline health.

Susan Gingrich and Winn establish the Bria Fund for FIP research, in memory of Susan's cat, Bria.

2006

Donations increase by 40 percent. Through its partnership with the Miller Trust, Winn recommended feline research studies funds in the amount of \$99,910.

Winn unveils its first official logo.

Winn co-sponsors the Fourth International Conference on Advances in Canine and Feline Genomics at the University of California, Davis.

Winn produces its first direct mail campaign to increase its donor base.

Kim C. Thornton is awarded the Winn Feline Foundation Media Award.

Grant awards exceed \$200,000 in one year for the first time.

2007

The Houston Cat Club is the first club to reach \$100,000 in cumulative donations to Winn and is recognized with a boulder on the Winn Donor Tree.

A Winn-funded researcher successfully identifies a genetic mutation causing hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in Ragdoll cats.

Winn-funded research identifies the mutation that causes feline blood groups.

Total Winn grants exceed \$3 million.

Winn co-sponsors the Canine and Feline Breeding and Genetics Conference at Tufts University.

Research partially funded by Winn traces the genetic history of cat breeds.

Winn remodels its website and adds a blog, www.winnfelinehealth.blogspot.com.

Winn launches the Veterinary Honor Roll Program.

Amy Shojai is awarded the Winn Feline Foundation Media Award.

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2008

Through its partnership with the Miller Trust, Winn recommends funding for five studies in the amount of \$99,910.

Winn funds 10 studies for \$135,860 in its regular grant cycle that address a number of different feline medical problems.

Winn celebrates its 40th anniversary in Louisville, Kentucky, and holds its 30th annual Feline Symposium.

Pam Johnson-Bennett is selected to receive the Winn Media Appreciation Award.

Years 2009 through 2011

2009-2011

Betty White becomes president of Winn.

2009

The Winn February grant review awards 12 new research grants totaling \$127,411.

Winn welcomes two new board members: Melissa Kennedy, DVM, PhD, Diplomate ACVIM of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, veterinary school faculty and Vicki Thayer, DVM, Diplomate ABVP (feline) who has a 30-year background in feline medicine.

The Winn Board of Directors restructures its governance ByLaws. Officer terms are now held for 2 years. Betty White is the new Winn president.

Kari Winters receives the annual Winn Media Appreciation Award.

Winn re-establishes its Winn Excellence in Feline Research Award, now coupled with a matching scholarship award by the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF). The Excellence in Feline Research award is presented to Dr. Michael Lappin of Colorado State University. The scholarship is awarded to Julia Mulvaney of Oregon State University.

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2010

Winn's endowment exceeds \$2 million and contributions increased 13%.

Winn participates in Meet the Breeds in NYC where the attendance was more than 30,000.

The Miller Trust grant review awards six projects totaling \$103,185.

50 grant proposals are evaluated and 16 grant awards are approved for a total of \$183,391 at the February Winn grant review.

The Winn Media Appreciation Award is presented posthumously to Susan Logan.

Dr. Leslie Lyons of UC Davis is awarded the Winn/AVMF Excellence in Feline Research Award and the recipient of the Winn/AVMF scholarship this year is Adam Breitenacher of the University of Georgia.

Winn's online presence continues to grow via the website, Facebook, Twitter, the Winn blog, Wikipedia, and Google Plus, well managed by board member, Dr. Susan Little.

Years 2011 through 2014

2011-2014

Vicki Thayer, DVM, DABVP (feline), becomes president of Winn.

2011

Another milestone year, as Winn celebrates awarding over \$4 million in feline research grants since 1968.

Winn again participates in Meet the Breeds in NYC.

Recipient of this year's Media Appreciation award is Beth Adelman.

Dr. Jody L. Gookin is honored as the recipient of the Winn Excellence in Feline Research Award. The companion scholarship award from the AVMF goes to Jessica Balter, a new Cornell University graduate DVM.

The Miller Trust review awards six research grants in the amount of \$102,887.

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The regular Winn grant cycle in February results in \$140,324 in eight project awards for feline health research.

Pfizer Animal Health becomes a corporate donor, offering significant support for cat health and research.

A strategic planning session is held in May in Phoenix to chart Winn's future. Dr. Vicki Thayer becomes president of Winn shortly after.

Winn joins the Cat Health Network (CHN), a collaboration encompassing Winn Feline Foundation, Morris Animal Foundation, American Association of Feline Practitioners, and American Veterinary Medical Foundation, to promote feline health research. The first CHN 12 projects are awarded feline SNPs and monetary funding.

As an outgrowth of Winn's planning session, Maureen Walsh was hired as Chief Executive Officer.

Dr. Jessica Quimby of Colorado State University through Winn-funded research determines appropriate dosing levels for mirtazapine, an anti-emetic and appetite stimulant for cats with chronic kidney disease.

2012

Winn becomes an associate member and supporter of the AVMA's Partnership for Preventive Pet Healthcare program.

Dr. Niels Pedersen of the University of California, Davis, receives the Winn/AVMF Excellence in Feline Research Award, while Alison McKay of Oregon State University is selected the Winn/AVMF scholarship award.

Miller Trust research grants for this year total \$99,745 for five projects.

Winn awards \$174,018 in grants funding ten feline medical studies.

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A new Constituent Relationship Management database and donation platform, DonorPro, is established.

Darlene Arden is presented with the Winn Media Appreciation Award.

Dr. Barbara Gandolfi of the University of California, Davis, determines the mutation causing hypokalemia in Burmese cats.

2013

A total of \$298,818 is given to research between the five Miller Trust grants awarding \$122,066 and Winn's regular grant cycle of awarding nine grants \$176,752.

Winn benefits from a social media campaign of PetHub.com, as well as HomeAgain's Hero of the Year.

Dr. William Murphy is awarded the Winn Excellence in Feline Research Award.

Four new board members join Winn: Drs. Glenn Olah, DABVP (feline), long-time Winn scientific reviewer, Brian Holub, and Eric Bruner. Eric will head the newly established Development Committee. Vickie Fisher joins the board as Winn Treasurer.

Zoetis, Inc. (formerly Pfizer Animal Health) provides, in addition to its recurring support, for a special grant funding opportunity in the amount of \$100,00 addressing the assessment of pain, osteoarthritis, joint health and kidney disease in cats.

Partial funding by Winn helps Dr. Gary Whittaker's lab at Cornell University determine the pathogenesis of feline coronavirus (therefore, potentially FIP) is linked to mutation of a critical viral activation site.

2014

Winn funds nine grant awards for feline research at \$173,122.

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Dr. Lorie Huston receives Winn Media Appreciation Award from Steve Dale, presented for the first time at the Blog Paws Conference in North Lake Las Vegas.

2014 sees Dr. Tim Gruffydd-Jones of the University of Bristol, United Kingdom, selected as the Winn/AVMA Excellence in Research Award recipient.

Demetria Vasilatis from the University of Florida is selected the Winn/AVMF scholarship recipient.

Vicki Thayer, DVM, DABVP (feline) is designated Winn Executive Director and Alisa Salvaggio is hired to continue as Donor Care Specialist.

Glenn Olah, DVM, DABVP (feline) becomes Winn president.

Winn is a sponsor of the International Conference on Feline Health at the University of California, Davis.

CFA donates \$10,000 to Winn.

Lorraine Shelton and Dr. Drew Weigner join the Board of Directors.

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