



The ASC Foundation – 20 Years Young – 1997-2017

Join us in celebrating two decades as the American Spaniel Club (ASC) Foundation! As we enter year four of the Eye Support Cataract research with Dr. Aguirre and University of Pennsylvania we look forward to the continuing support of the Cocker Spaniel fancy. Perhaps a little history is in order on how we got to where we are today.

The relationship of the Foundation with the American Spaniel Club and the Cocker fancy goes back to 1997 when a forward-thinking ASC Board, led by President Louise Milner, formed the Foundation to maximize the ability to raise money for the health, rescue and education challenges facing our parent club (ASC), its members and the fancy. With a 501(c) (3) nonprofit status and a separate Board in place, the Foundation was formed as a cooperative partnership working to promote the primary interests of ASC. The ASC Board recognized that the Foundation, as a 501(c)(3) organization, provided an opportunity for individuals to make tax deductible contributions. It also offers an opportunity for corporations whose charitable giving programs call for education and research efforts to make tax deductible gifts and an opportunity for corporations to match their employees' donations through their matching gift programs. Finally, and most importantly, it enables support of the efforts of ASC to raise funds to support educational programs as well as rescue and research for the welfare and betterment of the flushing spaniels that give us so much love and joy.

While small compared to other canine foundations, over the past 20 years the ASC Foundation has become a trusted partner on health research. From a research perspective, monetary support totaling over \$60,000 has been given to 27 AKC Canine Health Foundation research projects on oncology, epilepsy and autoimmune

deficiencies among others. As it is with research, progress is incremental, but by being part of larger funded and fully vetted projects of the AKC CHF we are able to make our dollars work harder than we could going it alone. A listing of these projects can be found on the Foundation website and results of the studies can be found on the AKC CHF website. Our research focus the past three years and for the forward three years is funding the search for a genetic cataract marker in Cocker Spaniels with the University of Pennsylvania and Dr. Aguirre. Unlike other research the Foundation funds, this study is very unique as it is totally focused on our breed. This requires from the Foundation a much larger financial commitment than other research. As a Board we have taken this step cautiously and seriously as every dollar is hard earned. With the help of many we have funded the first three years at a cost of approximately \$170,000 and will require a similar amount for the next three years of the study. By the end of year six, the investment of over \$350,000 will be our largest single research commitment to date but the potential rewards we hope for our breed are great. Without risk there is no reward. If you have not already, listen in on Dr. Aguirre's webinar – the link on ASC and ASCF websites. It is chock full of information and worth more than one listen.

While the ASC Foundation does not have the seemingly unlimited budget many breed clubs do, we like to think that the attitude of “we can make a difference” rings through each initiative undertaken. In 2015, both the ASCF and ASC contributed a total of \$5000 toward the disaster trailer initiative, **AKC Reunite**. Our logos appear on an AKC trailer in the northeast and southeast United States. Trailers were brought “into action” during recent weather disasters from Texas to Florida and up the eastern coastline. Those funds were not just a one-and-done donation, but represent an investment in long-term disaster relief. Further, the recent weather disasters brought front and center the need for a Natural Disaster Fund, which the Foundation established just this fall. Funding from donors nationwide are fueling support for current and future needs.

Since 2014, ASCF has spent over \$30,000 in general cocker rescue throughout the United States. From Foundation infancy in 1997 to 2017, our Rescue efforts have grown into a national network of Affiliate organizations bringing some needed monetary relief to local rescue organizations. Rescue is a selfless and expensive passion and our support is rewarded with saved lives and new homes for so many Cockers. Beyond monetary support, our program includes rescue tools, a listing of our approved Affiliates, Code of Ethics required and Rescue Committee information that is enhanced with networking between organizations through online groups. More information on rescue can be found on the Foundation website.

Twenty years in the making, the American Spaniel Club Foundation makes a difference every day thanks to our contributors. Everything the Foundation is able to

accomplish is by fund raising donations and legacy estate bequeaths. Through the giving of \$1, or \$5 or \$100 and more sent by a selfless donor, whatever they can afford, enables the Foundation to be successful in our responsibility to improve the health and welfare of our Cocker Spaniel friends. The Foundation has received several sizeable estate gifts and as ASC members make estate plans we also hope they will remember us in their plans. Members of the ASC know that Foundation success depends on them as well as other supporters that understand our vision and are willing to show their support with donations.

Serving the breed, the 14 members of the ASC Foundation Board are listed on the Foundation website and led by Board President Julie Virosteck. They meet monthly through the year either by phone or live at the National Specialty and Flushing shows. On behalf of the Board we thank our many contributors. We are honored to give of our time serving on the Foundation Board and various committees to give back to the breed that has given each of us so much. As we close out this year, we are putting in place the contract for the next three years of the University of Pennsylvania cataract study and initiating the substantial fundraising that will be required to meet those financial commitments. We will share the details of the Eye Support Cocker campaign as phase two is rolled out. We also plan to have another webinar with Dr. Aguirre in late January or early February 2018 when he will share with us the forward focus of the research.

Through your contributions you have made a real difference in our ability to support our health, education and research projects on behalf of Cocker Spaniels. Your donations means the world to us! Thank you! Looking forward to another decade of accomplishments.

On Behalf of the ASC Foundation Board of Directors,

Charles Born, ASC Foundation Communications



EYE SUPPORT COCKERS

WHAT'S HAPPENING ? ? ? ?

The ASC Foundation is finalizing the paperwork with Dr. Aguirre and University of Pennsylvania for years 4-6 of the study. All should be completed by the end of the year and we will let you know when that is complete. In the interim, Fundraising Chair Marlene Ness is ramping up our fund raising efforts and we thank you in advance for your continued support in that regard as well!!

UPDATING YOUR DOG'S RECORDS

For all of you bringing your Cockers ALREADY included in Dr. Aguirre's genetic cataract study for re-checks

—
***RULE OF THUMB – Please do remember to bring an Optigen research form to all eye exams, so the examining doctor will have one to fill out IN CASE there is a change – no matter how small. And, of course, be sure to send the form in to Optigen: 767 Warren Road, Suite 300, Ithaca, New York 14850. If you wonder why the need for the form - check out the Webinar with Dr. Aguirre - the link is on the ASC and ASCF websites. He explains all this in great detail.

Here is a link for the form:

http://www.optigen.com/doc/Cocker_Spaniel_Inherited_Cataract_Research_form2_27_17.pdf

According to Dr Aguirre's team, it is NOT necessary IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES in the eyes. In those cases, however, **they definitely want the completed OFA forms. This is how they know that your dog is still clear and that is a very important part of the study.**

Send to: OptiGen, 767 Warren Road, Suite 300, Ithaca, NY 14850.

*Dr. Aguirre and his team are anxious to see reports for AFFECTED Cockers – and ask that they be done approximately every six months. Again, remember to have your eye vet complete the research form (see above) with as many details as possible, and send them in to the noted address.

PLEASE contact Elena Duggan, cliffsiders@gmail.com, with any questions. Thanks to all for your support of this project.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING

The Eye support Cockers Cataract Fundraising team will be having an online Facebook auction this November-December. All proceeds will be going to Cataract Research. We are looking for any donations, if you have something you would like to donate please contact Marlene Ness on Facebook or email nesmar@live.ca.

DONATE NOW

Use the form on the facing page to support Eye Support Cockers or any of the other ASC Foundation programs.

Charles Born, ASC Foundations Communications



Please send your tax deductible contribution to:

ASC Foundation
Marleta McFarlane, Secretary
13024 Thomas Road KPN
Gig Harbor, WA 98329

Name

Address

City

State

ZIP

Email Address

Date

\$ _____ Make check payable to ASC Foundation
Amount

I wish my gift to go to the following:

_____ General

_____ Health

_____ Eye Support Cocker

_____ Rescue

This contribution is made in memory / honor of (circle one):

Please send letter of acknowledgement to:

Donors and memorials will be acknowledged by letter and listed on the ASCF Website.
If you do NOT wish recognition on the Website, please check here. _____