

\$1 Million Donated to Canine Biospecimen Bank

Facility will study the relationship between dog and human cancers.

Posted: February 14, 2007, 5 a.m. EST

Pfizer Animal Health has donated \$1.1 million to establish a national canine tumor biospecimen bank, called the Pfizer-Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium Biospecimen Repository.

The bank will allow the Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium, which was formed by a group of veterinary and medical researchers, to study the mechanisms of cancer, evaluate new drugs and better understand the relationship between human and animal cancers, said Michelle Haven, Pfizer's executive director of global discovery for Animal Health.

The tissue bank, which is expected to cost about \$2.2 million to build and take nearly three years to populate, will contain about 3,000 cancer samples once completed.

Morris Animal Foundation and the AKC Canine Health Foundation provided the initial funding of \$500,000 to launch the bank, and the two have said they will collaborate to secure the remaining funds.

"The Pfizer-CCOGC Biospecimen Repository will bring together several communities working on the problem of cancer in animals," said Matthew Breen, Ph.D., treasurer of the consortium.

"Having access to a large, thoroughly catalogued supply of tumor tissues for investigations of cancer biology should significantly accelerate the development of novel anticancer therapies," Breen said.