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MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$1 MILLION DONATION FROM HILL'S FOR CAT HEALTH RESEARCH – CAT LOVERS HAVE REASON TO CELEBRATE

Donation Also Includes Genetic Research Data to Identify New Tools for Veterinarians, Enhancing Cat Health

Denver, August 12, 2008: Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) has received a donation of \$1 million from Hill's Pet Nutrition, accompanied by a donation of ground-breaking genetic research data developed by Hill's researchers. These donations will assist MAF in the continuation of its 60-year history of funding research to help cats live happier, healthier lives. Since its founding, MAF has been at the forefront of efforts to advance cat health, and in November 2008, MAF will launch a global research effort on behalf of cats.

Dr. Patricia Olson, MAF president and CEO, comments on cats being slighted in [animal health research](#) funding and veterinary care. "It is a sad irony that cats are the most popular pet in our country, yet far too little research funding and veterinary care is being provided to meet cats' unique health needs," Dr. Olson says. "Thanks to Hill's extraordinary donation to MAF, cats will be given a dramatically better opportunity for a long, healthy life."

Research emanating from these genetic tools should provide veterinarians with increased knowledge and capabilities to prevent and treat a wide range of cat diseases. Cat lovers everywhere can celebrate this milestone in [feline health](#). It is hoped this increased focus on feline health and public awareness of the effort, will motivate cat owners to take their pets to the veterinarian more often. Presently, as documented by industry information, a large number of cats living in the United States do not receive regular health checkups and preventive veterinary care.

Part of this donation will establish an international coalition for feline genomic research. This coalition will advise MAF on the potential use of the genetic tools and define areas of future study. These tools will be used to determine causes and cures for the most serious of cat health maladies such as cancer, diabetes, kidney and bladder diseases,

allergies, obesity and more. The new genetic tools will be made available to feline researchers around the world.

“These tools offer a major head start for conducting genetic association studies that could one day help veterinarians better understand and diagnose diseases in our feline patients,” said Janet Donlin, DVM, chief of the veterinary business channel at Hill’s.

About Morris Animal Foundation:

Morris Animal Foundation, established in 1948, is dedicated to funding [animal health research](#) that protects, treats and cures companion animals and wildlife. MAF has been at the forefront of funding breakthrough research studies benefiting animals in some 100 countries, spanning all seven continents. MAF has its headquarters in Denver. The Foundation has funded more than 1,500 humane animal health studies. Charity Navigator ranks MAF as a four-star charity, the highest rating. For more information, call 800.243.2345, or visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.