



BAKER INSTITUTE *for* ANIMAL HEALTH

Dedicated to the study of veterinary infectious diseases, immunology, genetics, and reproduction.

What conditions are the Baker Institute for Animal Health studying?

The Baker Institute focuses on a wide range of diseases and conditions that affect animals, including cancers like hemangiosarcoma, infectious diseases like parvovirus and herpesvirus, genetic diseases like inherited forms of blindness, immune problems like allergies, and reproduction issues like infertility and early pregnancy. We are a group of scientists, non-scientists, and supporters working together for the benefit of all animals.

What is the Baker Institute doing about canine cancer?

The Institute is seeking treatments for a so far untreatable canine cancer, hemangiosarcoma. In a unique approach, we have assembled a large team tackling this cancer from many angles at the same time to learn how the cancer grows and works. If we can learn what drives hemangiosarcoma to grow and eventually kill the affected dogs, we can then identify ways to attack it. We have assembled a team of experts on the most advanced techniques to study cancer in a very detailed manner. Using these techniques we're studying immune defenses and the cells that may make cancer grow, and we're testing drugs developed against human cancers for their efficacy in dogs. We are convinced that working together we can proceed faster and more quickly identify the most promising approaches for defeating hemangiosarcoma.

How is the Baker Institute different from other research organizations?

The Baker Institute is focused on scientific discovery, a thrilling exploration that has enabled many landmark breakthroughs in veterinary medicine, including the first parvovirus vaccine, the first use of gene therapy to restore sight in dogs, and the world's first successful in vitro fertilization in dogs. Every day our scientists and students train their sights on finding the unknown in the health and disease of animals. These studies lead down many paths, continually broadening our knowledge of life, but at the same time we also keep a close contact with dogs, dog owners, veterinarians, and dog lovers, to learn how to apply new knowledge toward the diseases dogs suffer from today. This mix of scientific discovery and close contact with the potential beneficiaries is what has so often led the way to new treatments, diagnostic methods, and other approaches for keeping animals healthy and happy.