



Kansas City's championship year comes to animal health

Riding the momentum of the FIFA World Cup 2026™, the 2026 KC Animal Health Summit gathers the pioneers, innovators and leaders shaping the future of the industry. Register now to join them.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 6, 2026 — The city hosting the world's biggest sporting event this summer will turn its championship spirit toward a different arena this fall. The KC Animal Health Corridor will convene the industry's leading executives, investors, innovators and emerging companies at the 2026 KC Animal Health Summit, themed Champions of Animal Health. Over two days at the Midland Theatre, attendees will hear from top industry voices on the forces redefining animal health while competing early-stage companies take the stage in a *Shark Tank*-style pitch competition. Register today to secure your spot.

Event details

Date: Aug. 31 to Sept. 1, 2026

Location: The Midland Theatre, 1228 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105

Theme: Champions of Animal Health

Programming highlights

The Summit features a robust lineup of sessions, panels and networking opportunities. Highlights include:

- **Keynote address:** Hear from Emmy Award-winning broadcaster Joel Goldberg of the Kansas City Royals on "Winning Trust."
- **Executive panel:** Top leaders from Boehringer Ingelheim, Elanco, Merck Animal Health, Hill's Pet Nutrition, MWI Animal Health and Virbac share the impact of scientific innovation, data intelligence, sustainability priorities and shifting pet owner expectations on their organizations.
- **Global trends in innovation:** Experts from Stonehaven Cozmix Group examine the forces driving change across the animal health sector worldwide.
- **Emerging company presentations:** Early stage companies compete in a pitch competition to showcase innovations spanning pharmaceuticals, vaccines, nutrition, diagnostics and technology.
- **Investor panel:** Leading investors share what they look for in founders, as well as how to navigate funding and strategic partnerships.
- **Consumer trends:** A fast, practical session on how the U.S. pet market operates today and where animal health expertise can create genuine value.
- **Regulatory panel:** Industry experts connect the dots between federal policy, regulatory strategy, global pathways and real-world commercial adoption.
- **Recognition of [the 2026 Iron Paw Recipient](#):** Richard R. DeLuca Jr., Executive Vice President and President of Merck Animal Health

The Summit also promotes connections and relationship-building with one-to-one business partnering. Attendees can pre-schedule 20-minute meetings to network with fellow Summit-goers. More program details can be found on the [Summit agenda page](#).

Attendance is limited, so be sure to [register now](#) for the 2026 Animal Health Summit.

Media Advisory



About the KC Animal Health Corridor

Companies with a business location in the KC Animal Health Corridor account for more than half of the sales generated by the global animal health industry. The Corridor, anchored by Manhattan, Kansas, and Columbia, Missouri, is home to more than 300 animal health companies, representing the largest concentration in the world. For more information, visit www.kcanimalhealth.com.

###

Media Contact

Kristi Fender

kristi.fender@stephens-adv.com