

Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium

Van Andel Institute | Information for Owners

We appreciate your participation and thank you for your help. As the owner or duly authorized agent for the owner of the pet, you are being asked to have your pet participate in a research study to identify the genetic causes of cancer in dogs. Before giving your consent to your pet's participation, please read the following, ask as many questions as needed to understand what your participation involves, and sign and date the statement at the end of this document.

The Study

Many tumors considered rare in humans are relatively common in certain breeds of dogs. This indicates that there is an underlying hereditary or genetic component to this disease. Our objective is to identify that hereditary or genetic component. To do this, we have formed a consortium of leading scientists, physicians, and veterinarians at multiple institutions across the United States. We will analyze collected DNA and RNA samples from purebred dogs for genetic patterns that are associated with this disease. These patterns may form the basis of genetic tests that can tell us whether a particular dog is a carrier of a defective gene that will cause a cancer. Also, these studies will provide important clues about cancers in people.

The study is supported by the National Cancer Institute, Van Andel Research Institute, and private donations.

Participation in this study will include the regular admission and discharge procedures associated with a veterinary referral hospital.

Materials for this study (blood and tumor samples) will be obtained during the normal procedures performed for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.



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Description of Procedures

Blood Samples

Blood samples will be collected from dogs with tumors. Blood samples will be transported to VARI to isolate cellular genetic material and tumor cells.



Tumor Samples

Samples will be collected from pets whose tumor would otherwise have been scheduled for procedure to remove that tumor or upon post mortem examination. After adequate tumor tissue is set aside for diagnostic purposes, a portion (0.5 – 2 cubic inches) of excess tissue will be transported to Van Andel Institute to isolate cellular genetic material and tumor cells.

Risks Associated with Procedures

Blood Samples

There may be some mild bruising at the site. A dog's body starts to replace its blood immediately after the donation.

Tumor Samples

Since the procedure is performed on samples already removed during the normal procedure performed for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer, there are no risks associated with this procedure.

There are, however, risks associated with the procedure(s) performed for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer that you should discuss with your veterinarian.

Obligations of the Pet Owner

During the course of this study, your pet's blood and/or tissue samples, photographs, and x-rays or other diagnostic images, may be used to further understand the disease or condition and to facilitate treatment. By signing this document you consent to the use of such photographs and diagnostic images. Neither you or your pet will be identified in any publication, reports or presentations without your written authorization.

Withdrawing Your Pet from the Study

Participation in this study is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw your pet at any time without prejudicing its present or future care. Refusing to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits. Your pet may be withdrawn from the study if your veterinarian finds it necessary and/or in your pet's best interest. If your pet is withdrawn from the study for any reason, its progress may continue to be followed and clinical data may continue to be collected from your pet's medical records without additional authorization.

Cost to Owner

There is no cost for participating in this study.

You are responsible for the cost of your pet's initial examination, as well as costs associated with the normal procedures performed for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

Complications may arise during the course of obtaining blood and/or tissue samples due to the underlying disease and/or treatments rendered. Nonetheless, you are financially responsible for all diagnostic efforts and medical treatments that might be required as a result of such complications.

Treatment and Potential Benefits

There is no guarantee that your pet will benefit from its participation in this study. However, such participation may provide additional information about the extent of



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your pet's disease and, therefore, influence the course of treatment to help your pet, or other animals, in the future.

You will not receive any compensation for your pet's participation in this study.

Confidentiality

Medical records of your pet's blood and/or tissue samples will be kept confidential. No information by which your pet can be identified will be released or published without your written authorization.

Questions

For more information regarding this study, please contact the VARI Canine Hereditary Cancer Consortium at 616-234-5569 (phone), 616-234-5795 (fax), or chcc@vai.org (email).



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