

# **Investigation of intervertebral disc disease in German shepherd dogs**

Dr. Leigh Anne Clark

Caitlin Rinz

## **Informed Owner Consent Form**

### **1. Purpose of the project**

The purpose of the study is to identify the gene(s) responsible for intervertebral disc disease (IVDD). IVDD is a degenerative disease that results in damage to the intervertebral discs and causes limb paralysis. German shepherd dogs have an increased risk for IVDD.

### **2. Eligibility for participation**

All German shepherd dogs, including white shepherds, white German shepherd dogs, berger blanc Suisse/white Swiss shepherds, and colored German shepherd dogs, are eligible for participation.

### **3. Expected duration of participation**

Participation involves a single outpatient visit to a local veterinarian. This visit should take less than one hour for sample collection. All blood samples must be kept refrigerated or on ice post-collection and during shipping.

### **4. Description of Procedure**

All dogs will have blood collected for DNA analysis. A purple top/EDTA tube must be used to collect the whole blood. A small volume of blood (about 3mL; less than 2 teaspoons) will be collected from a superficial vein from each dog.

### **5. Possible discomforts and risks**

Some slight discomfort may be experienced during the blood collection procedure. This is a temporary discomfort and will not be a problem after the procedure is complete. Bruising and hematomas may also occur during the blood collection procedure. Any bruises and hematomas that develop should resolve on their own with time and require no treatment.

### **6. Possible benefits of study**

No direct benefit will be provided to the dogs.

### **7. Alternative diagnostics, procedures, or treatments**

None.

### **8. Confidentiality**

Owner and patient confidentiality will be maintained. No identification of individuals shall be made when reporting or publishing the data arising from this study.

### **9. Financial obligations**

There are no financial obligations by the owner to Clemson University for participation in this study.

**10. Compensation or therapy for accidental injury or complications**

The owner of any participating animal will be financially responsible for costs associated with the treatment of complications or accidental injuries associated with this study.

**11. Primary contact person(s)**

To obtain further information regarding this study contact:

Dr. Leigh Anne Clark (Principal Investigator)  
Clemson University, Canine Genetics Lab  
Department of Genetics and Biochemistry  
Clemson, SC 29634-0318  
864-656-4696

Caitlin Rinz  
Clemson University, Canine Genetics Lab  
Department of Genetics and Biochemistry  
Clemson, SC 29634-0318  
864-656-0872

**12. Voluntary participation and right to withdraw**

Participation in this study is voluntary, and refusal to participate involves no penalty or loss of care to which the patient is otherwise entitled. Participants have the right to withdraw from the study without penalty at any time and for any reason.

**13. Termination of participation by principal investigator(s)**

The investigator(s), Dr. Leigh Anne Clark and Caitlin Rinz, have the right to terminate the study for any or all participants at any time and for any reason.

**14. Unforeseen risks**

Unforeseen risks might arise at any time during the study. The investigator(s) will promptly inform owners of all animals enrolled in this project of any new information that may affect their willingness to participate.

**15. Shipping information**

Collected samples should be mailed standard overnight (to arrive during normal business hours) to:

Dr. Leigh Anne Clark  
Clemson University  
105 Collings Street  
319 Biosystems Research Complex  
Clemson, SC 29634-0318  
864-656-4696

# INFORMED OWNER CONSENT

## Investigation of intervertebral disc disease in German shepherd dogs

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), of

\_\_\_\_\_ (address)

\_\_\_\_\_ (City, zip code)

\_\_\_\_\_ (email address)

hereby consent to the participation of the following animal in the study “Investigation of intervertebral disc disease in German Shepherd dogs.” I certify that I am the legal owner (or agent of the owner) of, and am responsible for, this animal. I have read, received a copy, and understand the Informed Owner Consent Form. By my signed consent, I understand that this blood sample becomes property of the Clemson Canine Genetics Research (CCGR) laboratory and may be used in future studies at the discretion of the investigators.

Dog Information (Please include pedigree with submission if available.)

Sex: M F Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sire: \_\_\_\_\_

Dam: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this dog been diagnosed with IVDD? N Y

If yes, please provide the name of the diagnosing veterinarian:

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how was the dog diagnosed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how old was the dog when diagnosed? \_\_\_\_\_

Have any relatives of this dog been diagnosed with IVDD? N Y Unknown

If yes, please indicate those relationships:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Owner or Agent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*All information obtained in this study will be kept confidential by CCGR\***

Any questions about this study should be directed to Dr. Leigh Anne Clark  
(lclark4@clemson.edu) or Caitlin Rinz (crinz@g.clemson.edu).