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 Swisse/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).