Acute disc herniations are a common problem in dogs and due to the poor regenerative capacity of the nervous system, some dogs fail to recover and are left permanently paralyzed and incontinent. The purpose of this research is to identify a combination of markers of damage to the spinal cord in the blood that will predict the final level of recovery of dogs at the time they present to the veterinarian.

**Testing requirements:**

A small amount of the blood that is taken to check on their health on admission will be frozen and banked for biomarker testing. In addition, we collect a sample 1, 2, 3 and 14 days after surgery to measure levels as they change over time.

**Eligibility:** Dogs must have an injury severe enough to cause paralysis of the hind limbs.

**Financial Incentive:** Dogs will be seen on a recheck at 2 weeks following their surgery at no cost to the owners.

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