

Investigating the Genetic Basis of Typical Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's Disease) in Standard Poodles

Owner Consent Form for Dogs Previously Diagnosed with Addison's Disease

Purpose of Study

Primary hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease) is a common endocrine disorder affecting Standard Poodles. Affected dogs often have vague signs including decreased appetite, lethargy, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, and gastrointestinal pain. In times of acute crisis or stress, dogs with Addison's disease can develop severe dehydration that progresses to the point of collapse, low blood pressure, and life-threatening electrolyte abnormalities. The purpose of this study is to determine the genetic cause(s) of this disease in Standard Poodles. Our hope is that by better understanding the reasons why this disease develops, we can screen dogs before they start to show signs of the disease, and also help breeders tailor their breeding programs. This work may also indirectly help with our understanding of Addison's disease in humans.

Who is Performing this Study?

This study is being performed at North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine Center for Comparative Medicine and Translational Research. The principal investigator is Dr. Katharine Lunn, a board-certified internal medicine specialist who has a special interest in endocrine diseases. The DNA analysis is performed in the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at NCSU under the supervision of Dr. Kathryn Meurs and Dr. Steven Friedenberg, both of whom are board-certified specialist veterinarians with a special interest in genetics.

Summary of Procedures to be Performed on Your Dog

If you consent to participation in this study, we will take a 5ml blood sample (1 teaspoonful) from your dog to evaluate his/her genetic makeup.

There is no cost for participation in this study. The study investigators will pay for sending the blood sample to NCSU.

I understand that the information obtained in this study may not directly benefit my pet, but will provide veterinarians with valuable information and knowledge about Addison's disease in dogs. The results of this study may be published in a scientific journal or be presented at a conference, but neither my pet nor my family will be identified in any publications or presentations. My participation in this study is entirely voluntary and my refusal to participate will not affect my pet's care in any way.

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Owner Consent

I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered to my satisfaction. I am welcome to contact the principal investigator by telephone or e-mail if I have additional questions regarding this study. Dr. Lunn may be reached at kflunn@ncsu.edu or at 919-513-6701.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I am at least 18 years of age, and I consent to having the described procedure(s) performed on my dog for the purposes of this study.

Medical Record/Case # _____ Date _____

Pet's Name _____

Patient Medical Record Label (if applicable)

Client/Owner/Agent's Printed Name _____

Client/Owner/Agent's Signature _____

Clinician/Attending Staff Signature _____

Summary of the Study Investigating the Genetic Basis of Typical Hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's Disease) in Standard Poodles

1. First we will make sure your dog's health will not be negatively affected by a blood draw.
2. If your dog is healthy enough for a blood draw, and you agree to participate in the study, we will take 5 ml of blood (1 teaspoonful).

Answers to Your Questions about the Clinical Study

1. What is Addison's disease?

Addison's disease is an endocrine (hormonal) disease in which there is loss of function of the adrenal cortex. This results in loss of hormones that are essential for life. Fortunately, if it is diagnosed promptly, Addison's disease is very treatable, and affected dogs can have a normal lifespan.

2. Why are veterinarians at North Carolina State University studying Addison's disease?

Addison's disease is believed to be an immune-mediated disease. This means that the dog's own immune system attacks the adrenal glands, causing damage that eventually leads to loss of hormone production. Addison's disease in humans is likely immune-mediated too. Veterinarians at NCSU are interested in studying a variety of immune-mediated diseases. Addison's disease in Standard Poodles is particularly important to study because it is most likely inherited in this breed. We are studying the disease by analyzing the DNA of Standard Poodles with and without Addison's disease.

3. What will you do with the blood from my dog?

The blood will be forwarded to the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at NCSU where the DNA (genes) will be extracted and stored. Once we have enough samples from Standard Poodles we will begin to analyze and compare the DNA to see if we can find a mutation (change in the genes that causes the disease).

4. What are the risks to my dog if he or she is in this study?

We do not expect any additional risks from the study. We will be drawing a small amount of blood that is typically used for standard blood tests.

5. Will the results of the DNA analysis affect the treatment of my dog?

No – the results will have no effect on your pet or the treatment (s)he receives.

6. What is the benefit to my pet or me if I allow my pet to be in the study?

The main benefit is that it may help us to better understand and diagnose Addison's disease in dogs, with the potential to help breeders screen for the disease in the future.

7. Is there a disadvantage or penalty to me if I decide not to include my pet in this study?

No. Your dog will receive the same medical care, regardless of your participation.

Thank you very much – your participation is greatly appreciated.