

# The Genetic Basis of Addison's Disease in English Cocker Spaniels



College of  
Veterinary Medicine

## **Owner Consent and Patient Information Form**

### **Purpose of Study**

Primary hypoadrenocorticism (Addison's disease) is a common endocrine disorder affecting English Cocker Spaniels. 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 English Cocker Spaniels. 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.

### **Who is performing this study?**

This study is being performed at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. The principal investigator is Dr. Steven Friedenberg. Dr. Friedenberg is a geneticist and a board-certified critical care specialist with an interest in autoimmune diseases.

### **Summary of Procedures to be Performed on Your Dog**

If you consent to participation in this study, your veterinarian will take a small blood sample from your dog (5 mL, about 1 teaspoonful) and send it to the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at NCSU so that we can evaluate his/her genetic makeup.

If your dog is over 10 years of age and has not been diagnosed with Addison's disease (or Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia), your veterinarian will collect a second blood sample that we will use to measure the amount of cortisol in your dog's blood. If this test is normal, it definitively rules out Addison's disease.

There is no cost for participation in this study – the study investigators will pay the costs of shipping and testing.

The information obtained in this study may not 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 your pet nor your family will be identified in any way. Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary and your refusal to participate will not affect your pet's care in any way.

*(continued on reverse)*

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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 any questions regarding this study. Dr. Friedenbergr may be reached at [steven.friedenberg@ncsu.edu](mailto:steven.friedenberg@ncsu.edu) or 919-515-3277.

## Patient Information

Dog's Name:		Breed: English Cocker Spaniel
Date of Birth:	Color:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
AKC Registration (if known):	Registered Name (if known):	Pedigree Enclosed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## Client Information

First Name:		Last Name:		
Address:		City:	State:	Zip/Postal Code:
Phone number:		E-mail address:		
Owner Signature:				

## Sample Information – To be completed by veterinarian

Clinic name:			
Veterinarian name:			Date Samples Collected:
ACTH stimulation test results: <input type="checkbox"/> n/a (normal dog) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> results e-mailed		Electrolyte test results: <input type="checkbox"/> n/a (normal dog) enclosed <input type="checkbox"/> results e-mailed	