

RESEARCH STUDY INTO GENETICS OF CANINE HEALTH AND DISEASE

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET

You are invited to give consent for your dog to take part in a research study of Australian dog genetics.

Background

Many dog breeds are susceptible to specific diseases because of their pedigree or genetic background. The recent advances in canine laboratory methods provide a basis for a detailed understanding of differences between dogs and how they affect many aspects of dog health and response to disease, which can then be incorporated into disease management and eradication plans. This kind of research has proven to be particularly powerful in dogs because of the breed structure and common ancestry. This study will collect a large number of samples from Australian dogs to understand gene variation that exists in Australian dogs and the impact of the differences between dogs. The study includes a team of investigators working alongside Associate Professor Peter Williamson, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney.

What does it involve?

If you agree to the participation of your dog(s) in this study, you will be asked to allow the following procedures to be undertaken on your dog(s):

Dogs will have a single 2-10 ml blood sample taken by an experienced veterinarian. It may be necessary to clip a small patch of hair over the forearm for collection of the blood sample. The blood sample will be used to extract DNA for storage and later will be used for studies of dog genetics. The goal is to understand how genes vary between different dogs and the consequences of this for their wellbeing and health.

Other information

All aspects of the study, including results, will be confidential and no animal or owner details will be released. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual dogs will not be identifiable in such a report.

While we intend that the research advances veterinary knowledge and may improve our understanding of dog health in the future, the results may not directly benefit your dog(s).

Participation of your dog(s) in this study is entirely voluntary and will be at no cost to you: your dog(s) is not obliged to participate and - if you do consent to participation of your dog(s) - you can withdraw at any time, in which case any stored blood will be discarded.

When you have read this information, a veterinarian/project researcher will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact A/Prof Peter Williamson (tel 02 9351 3653, email p.williamson@usyd.edu.au).