Calcium Oxalate Uroliths Research Project

Client Consent Form

Study Title: Measurement of Pre and Postprandial Urine Calcium to Creatinine Ratio to Identify Calcium Oxalate Urolithiasis in Miniature Schnauzers

Principal Investigators: Dr David Grant and Dr Susan Carr. Phone: 540-231 4621. Email: dgrant@vt.edu and svcarr@vt.edu

One of the missions of the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is to create, disseminate and apply medical knowledge through discovery, learning and engagement. You are invited to participate in this mission by enrolling your animal in a clinical research study. You participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw your animal from the study at any time by notifying the Principle Investigator. There is no penalty if you choose not to participate.

Study Purpose: Miniature schnauzers have a strong breed predisposition to a type of bladder stones known as calcium oxalate uroliths. These stones can be asymptomatic – in one study up to 24% of apparently healthy schnauzers had uroliths. Uroliths can cause damage and pain, even in dogs who display no obvious symptoms. Therefore, improving our ability to diagnose these stones is important.

Study Aim: To determine whether testing the urinary calcium at different times of the day can better differentiate between dogs have that have formed calcium oxalate urinary stones and healthy dogs.

Duration of participation: The procedures will be conducted over a 24-hour period.

Study design/Procedures: A screening procedure will be undertaken to check for any diseases which could influence the results. We will ask you medical history questions. Abdominal radiographs (x-rays) will be taken and a small blood sample will be taken. If recent blood test results are available then these will be used instead.

Your dog may stay overnight at the VTH or stay with you. A meal ration will be provided for the evening and morning meal. Five urine samples will be collected on the second day. These urine samples will be collected by the VTH staff by free-catch, cystocentesis (a small needle inserted into the bladder) or bladder catheterization. The method that causes the least stress to your pet will be used. The urine samples will be analyzed and retained in storage.

Risks and Benefits: Your dog may experience a momentary discomfort when the blood or urine is obtained. Minor bruising may occur at the site. There is a low risk of introducing a urinary tract infection from catheterization. Dogs which require more than two urinary catheterizations will receive a broad spectrum antibiotic...
to further reduce the chance of infection. Rarely, dogs may have mild gastrointestinal upset after taking antibiotic medications. If this occurs, it is expected to resolve without the need for intervention or further treatment.

In the unlikely event your dog has any serious complication arising from a study-related procedure, we will begin treating him immediately and contact you. The cost for treating any unforeseen complications will be yours.

The benefit in participating in this study is that the knowledge generated may help in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment for other dogs affected by calcium oxalate urolithiasis (urinary stones). A copy of your pet’s results (radiology report, urine and blood tests) will be provided to you and your veterinarian. This data may assist in diagnosing or managing any future health conditions affecting your pet.

**Study Costs and Compensation:** There are no costs for participating in the study. Beyond the medical data provided to you, there is no further compensation for participation, unintentional injuries or unforeseen complications.

**Confidentiality:** The data collected in the course of this study is confidential. In any publication or presentation of the study data, we will not include any information that would make it possible to identify a subject. Research records will be kept in a secure room; only researchers will have access to the records. We will provide your dog’s data to your current treating veterinarian unless you have advised us otherwise.

**Voluntary Nature of the Study:** Your decision whether or not to participate will not affect your current or future relations with Virginia Tech or the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting these relationships. If you choose not to participate, you are free to seek alternative veterinary care from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital or elsewhere.

**Statement of Consent:** I have read and understood the above information. I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and receive answers, and I consent to participate in the study.

Client signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Investigator Signature: ___________________________ Date: ________________

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have questions or concerns about the study, our contact details are provided at the top of this form. If you have questions or concerns and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, please contact:

Hospital Director
Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
Address: 245 Duck Pond Dr, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0443
Phone: 540-231-4621

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC)
Virginia Tech
Address: North End Centre, 300 Turner Street, Suite 4120, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
Phone: 540 231-2166, Email: iacuc@vt.edu