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. Your participation is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw your animal from the study at any time by notifying the Principal Investigator. There is no penalty if you choose not to participate.

Study Purpose:
Ultrasound is a non-invasive and widely available imaging tool that is commonly used to look for prostate disease in dogs. On ultrasound we are able to see the prostate and evaluate its size, shape, and whether there are any abnormalities such as cysts, nodules, or inflamed tissue in the region of the prostate. Common prostate diseases in dogs include benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis, prostatic cysts, and cancer. Prostate disease in dogs is often treated by castration, which makes the prostate shrink in size (also known as involution). However, we do not know what a “normal” prostate in an older dog looks like on ultrasound during and after involution (after castration). This makes it difficult to differentiate between diseased and normal prostates of dogs castrated later in life. This study will help determine the appearance of the prostate following castration in dogs of various ages.

Study Design/Procedures:
Your dog will have an ultrasound exam of the prostate gland immediately prior to the castration procedure. This ultrasound exam is done with your dog lying on its side or back, and the ultrasound probe is placed over the prostate gland, in the area of the urinary bladder. Typically, no hair needs to be shaved, but a small spot may be necessary. We will repeat the ultrasound exam at 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 weeks after the castration procedure. Each exam should take approximately 10 minutes. Depending on how the prostate appears on each exam, we may finish within 16-20 weeks.

Risks and Benefits:
No risks are anticipated for the ultrasound exam. This is a non-invasive exam performed by radiology faculty. If at any time your dog is stressed or uncomfortable with the exam, it will be stopped.

Study Costs and Compensation:
In some cases, the cost of the castration is covered by the investigators. There is no charge for the ultrasound exams.

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 information that would make it possible to identify a research participant. Research records will be stored securely; only researchers will have access to the records.

In giving my consent by signing this form, I acknowledge that I have been informed of the purpose and nature of this study and its associated procedures, as well as any possible side effects.

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. I further certify that I am the owner (or duly authorized agent of the owner) of ___________________ .

(Animal’s name)
Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this study.

The research and procedures have been reviewed and approved by the Virginia Tech Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee and the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Teaching Hospital Board.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, please contact:

Director, Veterinary Teaching Hospital
Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine
Address: 205 Duck Pond Dr., Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0443
Phone: 540-231-4621

You will be given a copy of this form to keep for your records.