Ultrasound Evaluation of Canine Prostatic Involution

Purpose
To characterize and compare the ultrasonographic appearance of the involuting prostate following neuter in dogs of various ages to better differentiate between diseased and normal prostates.

Background
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. Common prostate diseases in dogs include benign prostatic hyperplasia, prostatitis, prostatic cysts, and cancer. Prostate disease in dogs is often treated by neutering, which makes the prostate shrink in size, a process known as involution. However, we do not know what a “normal” prostate in an older dog looks like on ultrasound during and after involution. 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.

Eligibility
- Healthy, intact male dogs of any age, weight, or breed

Exclusion
- Dogs who have received treatment for benign prostatic hyperplasia in the 12 weeks prior to initial examination
- Dogs who have received finasteride in the previous 12 weeks or during the follow-up period
- Dogs who have received antibiotic treatment for prostatitis, prostatic abscess, etc. in the 12 weeks prior to initial exam
- Temperament that requires sedation for performing diagnostic procedures.

Study Design
Your dog will have an ultrasound exam of the prostate gland immediately prior to his neuter procedure. This ultrasound exam is done with your dog lying on his side or back, and the ultrasound probe is placed over the prostate gland. 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 neuter procedure. Each exam should take approximately 10 minutes. Depending on how the prostate appears on each exam, your dog may complete the study earlier than 24 weeks after his procedure. No sedation is required to perform the recheck ultrasounds. Recheck appointments will take approximately 30 minutes.

Compensation
For enrolled dogs, the cost of the routine neuter procedure and study-related ultrasounds is covered by the study. You are responsible for clinical fees associated with medical complications of the procedure or unrelated medical problems. You are also responsible for additional costs, including an E-collar, post-op medications, more detailed blood tests (needed in some older dogs) and an overnight stay (rarely needed), if required. If you are unable to bring your dog for the required follow-up ultrasound rechecks, you will become responsible for the full cost of the neuter procedure (approximately $400).

Contact
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