

HELP US CURE DOG DISEASES!



*We are Searching for Genes for Bone Cancer and Other Diseases
Why? For Carrier Testing and Improved Treatment in Dogs and Humans*

The world of dog geneticists, oncologists, veterinarians and dog owners is about to change. The Canine Genome Sequencing Project, based here in Boston at the Broad Institute at Harvard and MIT, finished sequencing the dog genome this summer. Now, we are using this important new resource to find genes for canine diseases such as cancer, diabetes and epilepsy.

The first disease we are investigating, with the help of the AKC Canine Health Foundation, is osteosarcoma (bone cancer). This devastating cancer is a significant health concern in large dog breeds, affecting roughly 10-15% of **Rottweilers** and 10-30% of track **Greyhounds**. Even with treatments such as amputation and chemotherapy, the survival rate is only 20% after 2 years. We are searching for regions of the genome that differ between healthy dogs and dogs with osteosarcoma. This research will help develop genetic tests to identify carriers of osteosarcoma. Ultimately, we will also find the defective genes causing this disease, improving treatment and survival rates in dogs and in people with bone cancer.

To succeed at this, though, we need your help! We need to collect blood samples or cheek swabs from **Rottweilers, Greyhounds, Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Scottish Deerhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Irish Wolfhounds, Labrador Retrievers, Leonburgers, Golden Retrievers, Newfoundlands, Mastiffs** and **Bullmastiffs**. We need samples from both dogs that are sick with osteosarcoma and dogs that are healthy.

So that we can search for genes for many other diseases, we also need to learn more about the genome in all breeds. **Blood samples or cheek swabs from ALL breeds are welcome.**

What can you do?

- Healthy dogs: If you have a healthy dog (especially a dog 8 years or older), we would really appreciate a blood sample. We also need the AKC number or pedigree information. Please let us know if your dog has had any type of cancer.
- If your dog has osteosarcoma, please ask your veterinarian to draw a blood sample and send it to us together with the clinical information.

We will NOT shave dogs!

If you have questions please contact us at:

E-mail: dog-info@broad.mit.edu

Website: <http://www.broad.mit.edu/mammals/dog/>

All personal information and contact information will be kept confidential.

Blood Sample Release Form

Research Statement:

We would like to obtain a blood sample from your dog. The sample will help us to explore canine genetic issues including patterns of genetic diversity between and within breeds, and in disease states.

What are the Risks Involved with a blood sample?

A blood draw may cause a slight momentary discomfort to your dog as the needle is inserted. There is a small possibility that some bruising might be seen around the draw sight. This should only cause your dog marginal short-term discomfort and not have any major consequences. If your dog becomes aggressive and/or bites during the blood sampling process, the Canine Genome Project and the Broad Institute are not liable in any way for any resultant physical harm or property damage. Compensation is not available in the unlikely event of physical harm to your dog resulting from the blood draw procedure.

Who will have Access to the Information and Specimen?

Only the "Osteosarcoma mapping project" research staff will see research information and specimens that can identify your dog. Any studies utilizing your dog's oral/blood tissue sample will occur with the understanding that none of your dog's unique identifiers (name, AKC number, etc.) will be distributed or published.

Dog Owner's Statement:

I have read the information provided above and have had an opportunity to ask questions regarding the procedures involved. I am the owner or the agent for the owner of the dog described below and I have the authority to execute this release. My signature below indicates I voluntarily agree to give my dog's oral tissue or blood specimen for this study.

Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Owner's Name (typed): _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Dog's Name: _____

Dog Breed: _____ AKC number: _____

Known diseases: _____

Variety/Coat Color: _____ Dog Gender: Male Female

Pedigree enclosed: yes no Birth Year: _____

Please send sample to:

Dog Genome Project

Broad Institute

One Kendall Square, Bldg 300

Cambridge, MA 02139

Fax: 617-252-1902 (let us know to expect the sample)

Email: dog-info@broad.mit.edu

Website: <http://www.broad.mit.edu/mammals/dog/>