UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
CLIENT CONSENT FORM

Study Title: Determination of breed-specific reference intervals for assessing thyroid function in several breeds.

You are invited to participate in a study to determine reference ranges for a group of thyroid function tests. You were selected as a possible participant because your dog is one of the breeds in the study and is over one year old.

This study is being conducted by:

- Dr. Rebecca L. Davies, Department of Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Sheila Torres, Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Leslie Sharkey, Department of Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine
- Dr. Claudia Munoz-Zanzi, Department of Population Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine

We ask that you read this form and ask any questions you may have before agreeing to be in the study.

Purpose: The most common hormonal disease in the dog is hypothyroidism (low thyroid). To determine whether or not a dog is hypothyroid, we look at blood serum concentrations of the hormone thyroxine and thyrotropin. Currently, the range of normal values, called the reference interval, is based upon sample measurements from dogs taken from a general population, without regard to breed differences. Yet studies have shown that some breed groups have a lower normal range than that generally reported. Dogs from these breeds may be misclassified as being hypothyroid if the conventional normal range is used. With this study, we hope to establish breed-specific reference intervals for several thyroid function tests (free T4, free T4 by dialysis, canine TSH, and TgAA) in several purbred breeds of dogs. We also will compare references intervals among these specific breeds to each other and to the nonspecific intervals commonly reported. Finally we will look at possible associations between hormone values and age, size, body condition or reproductive status of the dog.

Procedures: If you agree to be in this study, we would ask you to do the following things:

1. Read and sign the consent form.
2. Allow a veterinarian to take a complete history of your dog, and conduct a complete physical examination.
3. Allow a veterinarian to obtain a blood sample from your dog. We will collect 10 milliliters (ml) of blood for this study. We will run the following tests: Complete blood count (CBC), chemistry, and a series of thyroid function tests.
4. Allow us to obtain a urine sample from your dog. We will collect 12 milliliters (ml) of urine for this study. We will run a complete urinalysis on this sample.

Risks:

- Blood sample – we will collect this sample from your pet using a technique called "venipuncture." This means we will insert a needle through your dog's skin into a

vein. We will use minimal physical restraint. We prefer to collect the blood from the neck but may also use a front leg or back leg. The risk of problems involved in this type of sampling is extremely small. There should be little to no trauma, discomfort, or risk to your pet when the blood sample is taken. A small bruise may be seen at the site of blood collection.

- Urine sample – we will collect the urine sample using free catch or a technique called cystocentesis. Cystocentesis means we will insert a needle through the abdomen into the bladder to draw out urine. We will again use minimal physical restraint. The risk of problems with this procedure is very small.
- If a complication were to result directly from obtaining the blood sample, *you are responsible for your pet's treatment if you arrange participation in this study with your own veterinarian*. If your dog is seen at a University of Minnesota sample collection event, your pet will be treated for this complication at no charge.

Benefits of participating in the study: You will be informed of the results of all tests performed on the samples from your dog. In addition, samples from your dog may help us establish reference ranges for your dog's breed, which will help us better diagnose thyroid disease in the future.

Voluntary Nature of the Study: Your decision to participate or not, will not affect your current or future relations with the University of Minnesota and the Veterinary Medical Center. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships. Participation in this study is **voluntary**.

Compensation: If samples are collected at the University of MN, costs for the examination, sample collection and lab tests will be covered by the study. We are not offering other compensation for participation in this study. Costs for any other blood tests, examination fees, or other medical or surgical procedures done at the VMC will be incurred by you, the client. Costs for samples collected remotely (outside the Un of MN) will not be covered by the study.

Contacts: Please feel free to ask any questions regarding the study at the time of your visit. If you have any questions later, you may contact Dr. Sheila Torres at 612-625-3715 or Dr. Rebecca Davies at 612-626-0168.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the study and would like to talk to someone other than the researchers, contact the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee at 612-626-5654.

Statement of Consent:

I have read the above information. I have asked any questions I have at this time and have received satisfactory answers. I consent to participate in the study.

_____ _____

Client Signature Date

_____ _____

Attending Veterinarian or Technician Date