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Australian Border Collie Health Survey

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION STATEMENT

(1) What is the study about?

You are invited to participate in a study examining the longevity and current health status of Australian Border Collies with particular focus on the prevalence of lymphoma in the population. This survey is part of a 4 year study starting in 2016 investigating the molecular basis of Border Collie susceptibility to lymphoma. This study is central for providing necessary information pertaining to the general health of the Australian Border Collie population as well as the prevalence, age of onset and other variables including tumour type, grading and anatomical distribution of lymphoma in Border Collies. This information will be applied to ongoing research into the heritability of the disease and molecular mechanisms causing lymphoma in Border Collies.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by PhD student Pamela Soh and Masters student Dr. Katrina Cheng (Oncology Resident, University Veterinary Teaching Hospital Sydney) from the University of Sydney alongside Associate Professor Peter Williamson (Associate Professor of Physiology and Genomics at the University of Sydney, Faculty of Veterinary Science).

(3) What does the study involve?

An online, electronic or hardcopy questionnaire will be used to collect information from pet owners on their dog's health status and clinical history of those diagnosed with lymphoma. There is no additional intervention on the patients or costs involved.

(4) How much time will the study take?

Approximately 10 minutes of your time. If you have a number of dogs or bred dogs in the past and would like help to complete the survey, please contact us.

(5) Can I withdraw from the study?

Participating in this study is completely voluntary and you are not under any obligation to consent to complete the questionnaire/survey. Submitting a completed questionnaire or clicking the consent box on the online version of the questionnaire is an indication of your consent to participate in the study. You can withdraw any time prior to submitting the completed questionnaire or clicking the consent box. Once you have submitted a completed questionnaire or have clicked the box on the online version, your responses cannot be withdrawn.

(6) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on participants, except as required by law. A report of the study may be submitted for publication, but individual participants and their dogs will not be identifiable in such a report.

(7) Will the study benefit me?

We hope that the knowledge gained from this survey will highlight common health concerns in the Australian Border Collie population, longevity of the breed, and assist ongoing studies into the heritability of lymphoma and molecular mechanisms behind lymphoma. A report of the study will be submitted for publication. This will allow you to appreciate the findings of this study as well as open up new opportunities for research into lymphoma predisposition to develop new breeding strategies to control the incidence of lymphoma in these dogs. Relevant research findings will be published in journals and presented in scientific meetings and seminars. Research findings may also be eventually published on the OMIA website, an online resource curated by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney. This resource catalogues the genetic causes of diseases in animals <http://omia.angis.org.au>.

(8) Can I tell other people about the study? Yes

(9) What if I require further information about the study or my involvement in it?

When you have read this information, Pamela Soh, Katrina Cheng, and Associate Professor Peter Williamson will be available to discuss it further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage please feel free to contact Pamela (pamela.soh@sydney.edu.au), Katrina (katrina.cheng@sydney.edu.au) or Peter (details above).

(10) What if I have a complaint or any concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact The Manager, Human Ethics Administration, University of Sydney on +61 2 8627 8176 (Telephone); +61 2 8627 8177 (Facsimile) or ro.humanethics@sydney.edu.au (Email).

This information sheet is for you to keep