

Owner Informed Consent Form for Healthy Dog

Purpose of the study:

We would greatly appreciate your participation in a study to clarify the potential role of vector-borne bacteria, specifically *Bartonella*, *Ehrlichia*, and *Anaplasma* species, as co-factors in the development of lymphoma. We are soliciting your involvement because the Golden Retriever Club of America, the owner of a dog with lymphoma, or your veterinarian has identified your dog as healthy and lacking clinical evidence of lymphadenopathy. Further, your dog is of similar age, sex, and geographic location as a dog with lymphoma and is therefore suitable for inclusion in this study. Testing of healthy, control dogs is necessary to determine if *Bartonella*, *Ehrlichia*, and/or *Anaplasma* infections are more likely to be detected in dogs with lymphoma, as compared to healthy dogs from the same geographic location.

Your participation in this study will involve an office visit with your veterinarian to collect blood from your healthy Golden Retriever.

Description of the study including procedures to be used:

Should you agree to participate in this study, the veterinarian and/or a veterinary staff member will perform routine venipuncture on your dog to collect blood samples for testing. Additionally, a lymph node aspirate, a routine procedure for the diagnosis of lymphoma, will be obtained for the purposes of comparison to Golden Retrievers with lymphoma. Lastly, a buccal swab (cheek cells from inside the mouth) will be collected using a non-invasive procedure. Your veterinarian and/or a veterinary staff member will also be asked to complete a brief questionnaire, with your assistance, pertaining to your pet's history and other pertinent information. Should additional information be needed, we are also requesting access to your dog's medical record. You may be contacted by telephone to answer any remaining questions about your dog.

Expected risks of the study:

There are no known risks associated with this study, aside from those of slight discomfort and/or a bruise from the venipuncture and/or the aspiration.

Expected benefits of the study:

The test results will be made available only to your veterinarian and any treatment decisions will be left to his/her discretion. Currently, very little information is available regarding the importance of flea and tick-transmitted infectious diseases in dogs, particularly as co-factor(s) in the development of lymphoma. Your participation as a healthy, control animal will help us to compile information pertaining to the factor(s) that induce lymphoma in dogs and to identify a possible link between vector-borne bacteria and the development of lymphoma. These findings would be particularly important for a population that has been shown to be at an increased risk of developing lymphoma, such as the Golden Retriever breed.

Use of research results:

All questionnaires and information collected as part of your participation in this research project will remain confidential. Your dog's medical records will be maintained according to the current standards of the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine.

I have read and understand all of the above information regarding this study. I agree to enter my Golden Retriever in the study entitled "Molecular Epidemiology of *Ehrlichia* and *Bartonella* Species Infection in Golden Retrievers with Lymphoma". I understand that I am responsible for the expenses related to the initial evaluation of my dog, any other diagnostics recommended, treatments performed, and any other aspects of case management, including complications, should they arise.

Owner's Signature: _____ Name printed: _____

Veterinarian's Signature: _____ Name printed: _____

Date: _____