

URGENT

STUDY FOR EARLY DETECTION OF OSTEOSARCOMA

DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH IRISH SETTERS ENROLLED

PLEASE HELP! There are not enough **HEALTHY** Irish setters enrolled in the Early Detection of Osteosarcoma study, also known as COED study, taking place at the University of Minnesota with Jaime Modiano VMD, PhD.

We are in danger of not having our breed fulfilled our commitment to participate.

Osteosarcoma is a common disease of dogs, with tens of thousands of new cases diagnosed each year in the United States. This disease is treatable, but not curable. Even with the best available standard of care, about 65% of dogs with osteosarcoma will die or be euthanized due to their disease within one year of diagnosis, more than 80% within two years, and more than 90% within three years.

This project is designed to develop a reliable, minimally invasive blood-based test for early detection of canine osteosarcoma. Such a test could then be combined with strategic and rationally-designed treatments to kill the tumors before they form. Since all large- and giant dogs have an elevated risk of bone cancer, this work has the potential to benefit a multitude of breeds, as well as mixed-breed dogs.

Owners who have already participated with their Irish setters gave feedback that it was easy to do with their veterinarian. Many of the vets were very excited to participate helping to collect a blood sample that would be part of groundbreaking research. And many of them charged no fee or a greatly reduced fee for the exam & blood sample .

As you will read below, the sample can be collected at a mutually good time and date for you and your veterinarian. **You or your vet MUST have access to overnight shipping once the sample is collected.** Several owners took the samples to a FED EX drop off location instead of asking their vet to arrange for Fed Ex pickup. **Shipping is paid for by the study.**

Here are the three easy steps to enroll to participate:

1. **Read all the criteria and make sure your dog is eligible prior to trying to enroll.**
2. Speak to your veterinarian to **confirm they or a vet tech at the practice will examine your dog** and agree to have the sample collection kit with all supplies and instructions sent to them at a mutually agreeable date and time for you and your vet.

Exam & sample collection will be scheduled (with input from the Modiano lab about when they send the sample collection kit) on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday earlier in the day to get the samples to Fed Ex that same day.

The vet practice must be able to process samples for serum and plasma onsite of their veterinary practice.

3. Once steps 1 & 2 are accomplished, fill out a form for each dog you are willing to have participate at:

<https://z.umn.edu/COED>

After you enroll your dog, please check your spam folder if you do not see a confirmation email in your Inbox within a few days! Due to shipping constraints and the number of samples per week that the study can process, it is important for owners to be patient as they wait for contact to schedule their enrolled dogs.

Criteria

Irish setters eligible for this study must:

- **Have a body condition score LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO 6 out of 9 (as attested by a veterinary health professional)**
- **Be at least 4.5 years old**
- **Be currently healthy: no cancer, no undiagnosed “lumps or bumps” (including inside the oral cavity), no serious chronic health conditions – and still have their spleen**
- **Never have been diagnosed with any cancer**
- **Live in one of the contiguous 48 states of the United States of America (samples from Alaska and Hawaii and international samples, including from Canada and Mexico, cannot be accepted due to shipping constraints)**

Procedures

- Owners will work with their veterinarian to submit blood sample(s): one at enrollment and additional samples may be requested.
- Sample kits & instructions will be provided to the owner's local veterinarian. **Local veterinarians must be able to process samples on-site for serum and plasma.**
- **Samples require FedEx overnight shipping - either the veterinary practice is able to ship or the owner will need to take the samples to FedEx for this.**
- Owners will be asked to complete follow up surveys at 6-month intervals regarding the health of their dog
- Owners will be asked to keep the study team updated with any changes of ownership, address, and veterinarian

Scheduling

The health of enrolled dogs will be monitored with periodic emailed surveys for at least 1-1/2 years thereafter, and, ideally, for the duration of the participating dog's lifetime. To maximize the likelihood of success of this project, it will be imperative for owners to return the surveys promptly.

Due to shipping constraints and the number of samples per week that the study can process, it is important for owners to be patient as they wait for contact to schedule their enrolled dogs.

When contacted, owners will be asked to **make their appointment at their vet clinic EARLY in the day on one of the dates offered by the Modiano Lab staff, which will be on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday.**

In order that the limited weekly slots for samples can be filled, owners should please make appointments ASAP and **confirm that they have made their appointment in an email reply which should include the vet clinic's shipping information: contact name at the clinic, clinic name and address, and clinic phone number**, which the Modiano Lab staff will need to send sample collection materials. If any owner is unable to schedule an appointment for any of the dates offered, the Modiano Lab staff will make every effort to continue working with them find one than does.

A consent form will be attached to the contact email. Owners will need to fill it out completely, **initialing the bottom of each page**, and signing the last page. **They must then take it with them to the sample collection appointment**, give it to the vet or tech collecting the samples to sign and date the last page, and ask them to include the entire form with the samples.

NOTE: The COED Study is not intended as a diagnostic for disease. It is an experiment to determine whether the blood/plasma/serum test can be used as a tool for early detection and risk assessment of osteosarcoma. Neither owners nor veterinarians will receive a diagnostic report

If you or your vet have questions, contact Mitzi Lewellen lewel001@umn.edu