

## Chronic Hepatitis in Standard Poodles

Chronic hepatitis is a severe and often fatal disease that causes inflammation and death of liver tissue. Early in hepatitis the liver enzyme tests are abnormal, but there are no clinical signs of disease. As the disease progresses, signs may include a sudden onset of jaundice, decreased appetite, vomiting, lethargy or abdominal distention. The disease can progress to cirrhosis of the liver and subsequent death. Chronic hepatitis is seen most often in middle-aged to older dogs. There is now considerable evidence to show chronic hepatitis exists in the Standard Poodle but there has not been an accurate documentation of the disease, investigation into its cause, or the genetics involved in the transmission. Preliminary studies looking for a genetic DNA marker for the disease have thus far been unsuccessful. At Colorado State University, we hope to collect information from Standards with chronic hepatitis and begin by describing the disease; we then hope to determine its cause and how it should be treated. To this end, we are soliciting liver and blood samples from Standard Poodles that have been diagnosed with chronic hepatitis. We would also like either the registered name, or if at all possible, ideally the pedigree of the dog for 4 generations. All information obtained on individual dogs and their lines will be strictly anonymous (known only by our team at Colorado State University).

If you have had or currently have a dog that has been diagnosed with hepatitis, or your vet is currently investigating whether your dog has hepatitis, please contact us to inquire how you can also help with our research. If your vet is planning on a liver biopsy, it is critical that they contact us at least several days before the biopsy is taken for instructions on how to handle the samples.

### What Is Needed:

1. **Liver tissue.** This can be fresh tissue from a biopsy or a previous/necropsy sample preserved in formalin. We may also be able to obtain tissue from the pathology laboratory after the biopsy has been processed. If a biopsy is planned in the future, we can process the sample at no charge using The Colorado State University Diagnostic Laboratory.
2. **Blood sample.** We will need a small EDTA blood tube, as well as serum (about 5 mls of blood, total). The samples should be shipped overnight in special tubes that we will provide.
3. **Pedigree.** We would ideally like a copy of 4 generations if available, or if not, at least the registered name of the animal. (Again, this information will be kept anonymous.)
4. **Veterinary record.** We will ask your veterinarian to provide us with a complete history about your dog's case.
5. **Consent form.** We would ask you to provide us basic information and sign a consent form to let us study your dog's blood and/or liver tissue.

### Sample Submission:

The blood and liver tissue should be submitted by Fed Ex or UPS overnight. Please contact us prior to sampling to obtain a sample kit and shipping info. Samples should be submitted to:

Poodle Hepatitis Study – Attention: Melissa Brewer  
VMC – Department of Clinical Sciences  
Colorado State University  
1620 Campus Delivery  
Room B224  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1620

### Contact Information:

Prior to obtaining a biopsy sample or shipping material, please contact us ahead of time so we can confirm shipping. We are also very happy to discuss your dog's case with your veterinarian to determine if he or she should be entered into the study. Please contact either:

Dr. Allison Bradley  
970-297-4017  
allison.bradley@colostate.edu

Dr. David Twedt  
970-297-1202  
david.twedt@colostate.edu

**Owner Consent Form**

I hereby declare that the samples submitted for research are from the dog named below. I also consent to the use of any spare blood samples from my dog in research and for its long-term storage. I also give Dr. Twedt and Dr. Bradley permission to obtain further medical history about my dog and/or previously biopsied liver tissue in storage at the diagnostic laboratory that performed the histopathology. I consent to the use of any data obtained from my dog's samples in scientific presentations and/or publications.

**Signature**.....**Date**.....

Dog's registered name.....

Dog's nicknames.....

Sex: Male / Female                      Neutered: Yes / No

AKC number (if known).....

Birth date.....

**OWNER DETAILS**

Owner's name.....

Telephone number(s).....

E-mail address.....

Address.....

.....

**VETERINARIAN DETAILS**

Name of veterinarian .....

Name of practice.....

Practice phone number.....

Practice address.....

.....

Fax number.....

E-mail address.....

***Thank you very much for taking part in this valuable study. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions on the telephone numbers or e-mail addresses given.***