

 DEPARTMENTS of RADIOLOGY
NEUROLOGY & PSYCHOLOGY

 THOMPSON CENTER 
FOR AUTISM & NEURODEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS

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Dear Miniature & Standard Poodle Breeders and Handlers:

Dr. David Beversdorf, Shelley Green-Wooldridge, and Dr. Lisa Lit, at the University of Missouri and the University of California-Davis, would like to invite you to participate in a research study examining social interaction in miniature and standard poodles. These findings will help gain insight into how dogs might help us understand human social behavior, and disorders such as autism. This disorder is characterized by deficits in both social interaction and communication and occurs in up to 1 in 100 individuals, making autism research increasingly important.

Shelley Green-Wooldridge, AKC handler, has advised the study investigators that autism-like behaviors have been observed in several miniature and standard poodles. With thirty years of experience in working with poodles, Green-Wooldridge believes that this breed seems to be most appropriate to study for social behavior.

This study is solely observational in nature and could potentially benefit both poodles and humans. Participation in this study involves the completion of a Miniature Poodle Social Interaction Survey, developed by Dr. Lisa Lit. **Both miniature and standard poodles are eligible for the survey.** This survey, to be completed via breeder or handler observation, characterizes the general social behaviors of a poodle, such as attention, gesturing, and eye contact. Other information collected by the survey includes general health and training information, by the observation of the breeder or handler.

Please join us in helping to conduct this study that will be useful to both dogs and humans. If you would like to participate, please follow the link below for the survey. If you currently have more than one poodle, please complete one survey for each poodle.

Link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MiniaturePoodleSocialSurvey>

Once you complete the survey(s), please email Rachel Zamzow at rachel.zamzow@mail.missouri.edu to confirm your study participation and to indicate whether or not you would like to be contacted about future studies. If you would prefer paper surveys, or have any questions or concerns, please contact Rachel Zamzow or Shelley Green-Wooldridge at shelleyhamilton@hotmail.com.

Sincerely,

David Beversdorf, MD, Rachel Zamzow, BS, & Shelley Green-Wooldridge