

# CLINICAL TRIALS

## Nutrition

**Multiple Cat Household Weight Loss Study Using Automated Feeders.** Three groups to be randomized: owner fed 2 times per day, auto feeder 2 times per day, auto feeder 6 times per day. Cats must be overweight or obese BCS of 7/9 or greater and a BFI of 30 or greater. Multi-cat household, indoor cats only, must be willing to feed/eat an exclusively dry diet. Only one cat in the house will be the study cat. Cats must be 1 – 10 years of age with no systemic illness that would preclude use of a therapeutic weight loss diet or interfere with metabolism and appetite. An initial evaluation visit is required. Following visits would be on weeks 2, 4, 8, 10, 14, 18, 22, 26. Complimentary nutritional assessment and lab work valued at \$267 as an incentive. No cost to client for visits. Diet will be provided. Upon completion of the 6 month study, clients will receive their choice of \$100 credit to UTCVM Veterinary medical Center or a VISA gift card. UT employees only have the option of hospital credit. **Contact: Nutrition Technician Tammy Moyers [tmoyers@utk.edu](mailto:tmoyers@utk.edu) or 865-974-8387** to schedule an appointment. Study PI: **Angela Witzel Rollins** For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

## Internal Medicine

**Evaluation of the effect of Omeprazole on clinical signs in cats with chronic kidney disease.** Eligible cats will have a stable creatinine >2.9mg/dL and USG <1.035 (IRIS stage III or IV) and be able to travel to the UTCVM for required weekly to biweekly exams and blood work. Cats that meet eligibility requirements will receive Omeprazole or placebo once per day for 2 weeks. After a 14 day rest period the cat will be given the drug not given during the first 2 weeks. Study pays for the physical exam, cbc, serum biochemistry, urinalysis, urine culture, blood pressure and total T4 at study entry. Also pays for the physical exam and serum biochemistry every 2 weeks for 8 weeks. Participants will need to return to the UTCVM every 2 weeks for 8 weeks. Cats with concurrent GI or hepatopancreatic disease or diabetes mellitus will be excluded. If acid suppressants are being used, it will need to be discontinued for a minimum of 7 days prior to study inclusion. Other drugs are allowed if they have been started for more than 2 weeks and are given consistently. **Contact: Dr. Katie Tolbert – [mtolber2@utk.edu](mailto:mtolber2@utk.edu)** Appointments must be scheduled through Dr. Tolbert. For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

**Gastrointestinal and platelet changes in dogs with Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia.** Evaluating dogs treated with clopirogrel or aspirin in conjunction with prednisone and cyclosporin. Dogs with newly diagnosed IMHA weighing > 10 lbs. Screening lab work and imaging (CBC, Chemistry, UA, urine culture, vector borne disease tests (4Dx at minimum), thoracic and abdominal radiographs) must be performed at owner's expense, not paid for by study. Enrollment is anticipated to last 30-35 days. The study pays for exam fees, Tcell function tests, platelet function testing, capsule endoscopy, and study medications. **Contacts: Dr. Jacqueline Whittemore, [jwhittem@utk.edu](mailto:jwhittem@utk.edu); Technicians Tammy Moyers, [tmoyers@utk.edu](mailto:tmoyers@utk.edu) or Gina Galyon, [ggalyon@utk.edu](mailto:ggalyon@utk.edu)** For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

**Snake bite treatment study on dogs- effects of hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) on wound healing.** To be eligible, the snake bite needs to be confirmed or highly suspected and patient must be presented within 24 hours of snake bite. If eligible, the dog will be chosen randomly to receive HBOT or not (control group). All dogs will receive standard of care for snakebite. The study will pay for 2 HBOT/control treatments (value of \$150). If additional treatments are recommended, the cost is \$65 per treatment. **Contact: Dr. Shelly Olin, [solin@utk.edu](mailto:solin@utk.edu)** For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

**Palliative Radiation in the Treatment of Idiopathic Lymphoplasmacytic Rhinitis (LPR) in Dogs.** Idiopathic lymphoplasmacytic rhinitis (LPR) is a common cause of chronic nasal discharge in dogs and can be challenging to treat. Many pet owners become frustrated with medical therapy and inconsistent responses to treatment. Recently, radiation therapy has been proposed as a potential treatment for LPR given that lymphocytes are extremely sensitive to radiation. Dogs must have a previous diagnosis of LPR and have had continued clinical signs. All dogs must undergo some diagnostic testing prior to starting the study to ensure that they are eligible - CT scan and minimum database and physical examination to ensure they are free from medical conditions that influence anesthesia

candidacy. Each dog will receive a 5-day course of radiation, including anesthesia, and associated hospitalization, free of charge (estimated savings: \$2500). Each dog will receive a diagnostic CT scan under anesthesia, free of charge, 3-4 months following radiation therapy (estimated savings: \$ 1000-1200). Please note: All dogs must have a CT scan to determine their eligibility prior to receiving these financial incentives. No additional monetary compensation or travel stipend provided.

**Contact:** Dr. Sarah Schmid, [sschmid7@utk.edu](mailto:sschmid7@utk.edu) For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

## Physical Rehabilitation/CARES

**The effects of autologous mesenchymal stem cell therapy on joint osteoarthritis in dogs (Elbows).** Requirements are unilateral or asymmetric lameness of the elbow due to osteoarthritis with minimal co-morbidities and no history of cancer. Two randomized groups, dogs that receive treatment (platelet rich plasma and stem cells) and control group that does not. Enrollment will last approximately 3 months. Study will pay for stem cell and PRP treatments, force plate analysis, and sedation for surgical procedures. Owner is responsible for cost associated with determining eligibility. Study visits include two pre-trial visits, every 2 weeks for one month, then one at 3 months and 9 or 12 months. **Contacts:** Drs. Marti Drum, [mdrum@utk.edu](mailto:mdrum@utk.edu); Darryl Millis, [dmillis@utk.edu](mailto:dmillis@utk.edu);

Maria Cekanova, [mcekanov@utk.edu](mailto:mcekanov@utk.edu), and Physical Therapy Technician Dawn Hickey, [dhickey3@utk.edu](mailto:dhickey3@utk.edu)  
For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

## Soft Tissue Surgery

**Description of malignant and benign nodules and masses of the spleen and liver in dogs using gadoxetate disodium (Eovist) enhanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).** The goal of the study is to determine if a mass seen on MRI can be determined to be benign or malignant based on appearance without the need for an invasive procedure, such as spleen removal. Dogs will need to have a diagnostic abdominal ultrasound at UTCVM Veterinary Medical Center. An abdominal MRI will be performed using a specific contrast agent. Following the MRI, the dog will go to surgery to obtain biopsy samples or removal of spleen. Cost of MRI (including anesthesia and contrast agent) as well as all histopathology (biopsy) fees will be covered by the study. If the dog leaves the study before biopsy samples are collected, the owner will be responsible for the cost of the MRI (\$375). **Contact:** Dr. Cassie Lux, [clux@utk.edu](mailto:clux@utk.edu)

For more information, [DOWNLOAD A HANDOUT](#)

## Community Practice/Behavioral Medicine

**Exploring the health and welfare in working dogs – measuring hair cortisol levels.** Qualified animals must be working, therapy or companion dogs. Owners will be required to complete 2 questionnaires. Dogs should be in good health, a small area of hair will be plucked, then clipped from the chest area and blood drawn for a blood chemistry (paid for by the study). **Dogs are required to return in 1 year.** **Contacts:** Dr. Julia Albright, [jalbrig1@utk.edu](mailto:jalbrig1@utk.edu); Dr. Zenithson Ng (pronounced “ing”), [zng@utk.edu](mailto:zng@utk.edu)

**Measurement of neurotransmitters excreted in the urine of healthy dogs.** Eligible dogs can be male or female, adult (1-10 years), greater than 20lbs, no concurrent disease or medications other than flea preventatives, no anxiety or aggression issues as per owner-queried behavior questionnaire, fed commercial diet (no raw diet). The owner can click on the link below to read further details and give consent for the study. The client will then be directed to a behavioral survey questionnaire. Once this information is reviewed, the client will be contacted to receive materials for urine collection and an appointment time at the UTCVM. To get started visit:

[https://utk.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_0pSDUyBtLavMmfH](https://utk.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0pSDUyBtLavMmfH) **Contact:** Dr. Julie Albright, [jalbrig1@utk.edu](mailto:jalbrig1@utk.edu)

**Contact information is provided for referring veterinarians only.**

### CLINICAL TRIALS COORDINATOR

Gina D Galyon, BS, LATg, LVMT

865-974-8387 | FAX: 865-974-5213 | [ggalyon@utk.edu](mailto:ggalyon@utk.edu)