

CLINICAL TRIALS

For additional information and to download handouts for current clinical trials, visit: <https://tiny.utk.edu/UTCVMClinicalTrials>

Nutrition

Dietary treatment of mild to moderate feline chronic enteropathy. Three visits to UTCVM required. Cats that are indoor only, 1-8 years old, must have vomiting or small bowel diarrhea (> 3 weeks) could be eligible. They will be eating dry food only, if more than one cat in the house, all cats have to eat the test diet. All cats in the household must be dewormed with Panacur prior to study start. Food will be provided for all cats in the house. Initial visit testing (value: approximately \$930) will be covered. Four and 12 week exams are covered as well (value: approximately \$435). If low vitamin B12 is diagnosed, owner is responsible for cost of supplementation. Owner is responsible for cost of Panacur prior to study. **Contact: Nutrition Technician Tammy Moyers tmoyers@utk.edu or 865 755-8159** to schedule an appointment. Study PI: **Dr. Maryanne Murphy**

Efficacy of diet, antibiotics or probiotics for the treatment of canine acute gastroenteritis. Dogs of any breed, gender or weight eligible. Must be older than 1 year and current on vaccinations. Presenting with symptoms of acute diarrhea, but otherwise healthy. No history of pancreatitis, IBD, endocrinopathy or suspicion of hemorrhagic gastroenteritis. Patients need to have a fecal score of 2.5 or lower on the Royal Canin 5-point scoring system. Study will last 5 days. At initial visit a fecal sample will be tested for parasites at no charge. Patients will be randomized into one of four groups. Owners will be required to complete a questionnaire and to collect fecal scores daily during the 5 day period. **Contact: Nutrition Technician Tammy Moyers tmoyers@utk.edu or 865 755-8159** to schedule an appointment. Study PI: **Dr. Maryann Murphy**

Internal Medicine

Gastrointestinal bleeding in dogs with pituitary-dependent Cushing's disease Sustained glucocorticoid administration can cause occult gastrointestinal bleeding in dogs and people. The purpose of this study is to determine whether dogs with pituitary-dependent Cushing's disease have occult gastrointestinal bleeding. Bleeding will be assessed using capsule endoscopy - a non-invasive gastrointestinal imaging technique. Dogs must be 10 pounds or more, +/- positive test for Cushing's, no prior or current treatment for Cushing's. Inclusion in study will be determined at first study visit. Dog will have a minimum of 2 visits to the VTH. There is no charge to the owner for visit or diagnostics. Involvement in the study will last up to 2 weeks. **Contact: Dr. Jacqueline Whittemore jwhitem@utk.edu | 865-974-8387. Gina Galyon, LVMT ggalyon@utk.edu | 865-755-8151**

Measurement of serum vitamin K in dogs with chronic enteropathy, pre and post supplementation Dogs with chronic enteropathy may be deficient in fat-soluble vitamins, such as vitamin K. We will be using a test used in humans to test for vitamin K levels in dogs. Qualified dogs will receive supplementation for 4 weeks then return weekly for a blood sample. At the end of the 4 weeks, a final sample will be taken for the study to see if there is an increase in functionally active vitamin K. Study medications, vitamin K blood test and blood clotting tests will be at no charge to the owner. Dogs must be greater than 2kg (4.4 pounds), vomiting, diarrhea or other GI signs for at least 3 weeks and greater than 1 year in age. **Contact: 865 974-8387 Dr. Jillian Myers Smith jsmit553@utk.edu, Gina Galyon LVMT ggalyon@utk.edu 865 755-8151**

Dermatology

Effect of Claro on adrenal function in clinically healthy dogs The purpose of this study is to determine if the application of a commonly used and widely available ear medication (Claro) for dogs, which contains a potent topical steroid, decreases natural steroid hormone production, and if so, for how long, in otherwise healthy dogs diagnosed with otitis externa. Dogs must be 8 months-6 years of age and maximum weight of 20 kg. Bilateral otitis externa preferred. Exclusion criteria for this study include use of corticosteroids (topical or systemic) within 3 months prior to entry, clinical suspicion of *Pseudomonas* otitis which would not respond to Claro administration, a ruptured tympanic membrane as assessed on otoscopy, pyoderma, generalized pruritus, and/or systemic illness. Involvement in the study requires 2-3 visits on days 0, 28, and 42 (if needed) within a 4-6-week period. Benefits provided at no cost for qualifying dogs include Claro otic medication, ACTH stimulation testing, otoscopy and otic cytology at each visit, and visits that are directly related to the study. Any additional costs will be discussed with client before proceeding.

Contact: Dr. Sarah Hoppers saremorr@vols.utk.edu 865 974-8387

Canine Pyoderma Clinical Vaccine Trial The purpose of this study is to test the ability of the new vaccine to stimulate an immune response in dogs with skin infections and to assist their immune systems in destroying the bacteria. Participants should be dogs that have been diagnosed with a bacterial skin infection that is not responding to standard antibiotic treatments. Eligibility criteria • Dogs diagnosed with pyoderma. • Dogs must weigh a minimum of 10 pounds. Duration of the study is 4 weeks. The UTCVM Dermatology Service will need to see the patient on days 0, 7, 14, and 28. Owners must be willing to return weekly for appointments to re-administer vaccine and assess response to therapy. The patient will receive a bacterial culture and skin cytology as part of the standard of care for diagnosing the skin infection at no cost to you. Blood will be collected for a CBC and chemistry panel and urine will be obtained for urinalysis to obtain baseline values. The client and primary veterinarian will be provided with these results and the tests and the visits will be at no cost to you. Office visits, bloodwork and urinalysis will be provided at no cost to the client. Participation in this study will help the future treatment of dogs with pyoderma. Additional costs to the client may be discussed. **This is a placebo-controlled study.**

Contact: Dr. Linda Frank lfrank@utk.edu 865 755-8159

Behavior

Effects of probiotics on fear-related behaviors in moderately anxious cats This study will investigate the effects of the probiotic BL999 on behavioral and physiologic measurements of fear, anxiety, stress (FAS) in cats with moderate anxiety during novel object tests performed in the home environment.

Inclusion criteria: • Primarily indoor cats between the ages of 12 months to 12 years • Stable physical and social environment (no dwelling changes, no new pets, no new residents) for 3 months prior to the study start date, and expect to be in same consistent environment for 4 months after enrollment • Minimum database values within normal limits (complete blood count, serum chemistry, urinalysis, free T4) • Moderately anxious, based on a feline emotional scale **Exclusion criteria** • Inability to consistently consume the test supplement powder (e.g., poor appetite, dietary restrictions for which animal digest powder or probiotic BL999 is contraindicated) • Chronic condition not well-controlled (as determined by Dr. Ng and Dr. Albright) over the 6-month period prior to enrollment • Extreme emotional responses (fearful or friendly) to visitors, based on a feline emotional scale • Lack of appropriate in-home testing space: approximate 5 ft circumference and isolation from distracting stimuli • Severe distress during veterinary exams or restraint

This study will last for 15 weeks. You will be asked to conduct and record a brief behavioral test, and collect a fresh fecal sample and nail clippings every 6 weeks. You will also be asked to complete brief surveys (about 10 questions) via online survey or phone every week. • There will be no cost to the client for the physical exam visit, CBC, Chemistry, T4, or urinalysis (value of \$200). • Owner will be sent a link to the enrollment survey after a brief phone/email interview. **Contact: Rachel Lees, RVT rlees@utk.edu 865 440-1071**

Contact information is provided for referring veterinarians only.

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