

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND SCIENCES

Background information to the canine haemangiosarcoma project

Haemangiosarcoma is a malignant tumour which is common in the spleen of dogs, particularly the German Shepherd. To date, this remains a tumour which is always fatal. Despite extensive research into this tumour over many years, there has been little progress in improving the outcomes of affected dogs. We are beginning a PhD project trying to understand more about the process by which the tumours grow and how they spread. We hope that the outcome of this project will help us understand the biology of the tumours which in the future can give us a better chance of predicting their behaviour at the time of diagnosis, and better options for treatment. Ultimately, we hope that the project findings will make positive steps into helping affected dogs live for longer with the tumours and contribute to future research to eventually effect a cure. We are doing this in multiple ways. We will be surveying owners of dogs that have been affected by haemangiosarcoma and those that haven't, to look at what aspects of how we look after these dogs might influence whether they develop the tumour or not. In addition to this, we will be looking at pieces of the tumours themselves to understand more about how they grow and spread. For this part of the project, we will be using tumour tissue that is sitting in archives of pathology labs and in addition to this we would like to collect fresh samples of tumour tissue at the time that dogs are undergoing investigations and surgery to remove the tumours. This fresh tissue will provide us with crucial information on how the tumours differ from the normal tissues in which we find the tumours. We hope very much that as a dog owner or breeder, you will feel this is a worthy project to support and that we can make a difference to dogs with this terrible disease in the future. We have ethical permission to undertake this research from CARE, University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science ethics committee.

For further information please email: sv-dogs@nottingham.ac.uk

Chris Hazell the breed health coordinator for the GSDs is helping coordinate sample collection and so will be an additional point of contact for information.

We very much look forward to working with the owners and breeders of these lovely dogs.

Prof's Mark Dunning, Nigel Mongan and Catrin Rutland and Ms Jorja Jackson-Oxley.

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