

Golden Retriever Study

Owner Information Sheet



Preliminary assessment of an ultrasonographic screening method to identify the location of the ureteric openings in clinically normal Golden retrievers

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Background - Why are we doing this study?

'Wet Puppy Syndrome' is a condition known to be present within the Golden retriever breed and known to be inherited, although likely in a complex manner. The clinical signs of urinary incontinence are due to an underlying condition, ureteral ectopia, where one or both ureters have not developed correctly and their opening is located in the urethra (or vagina/vestibule) rather than in the bladder. In most (but not all) females, this results in urinary incontinence and this is identified shortly after birth. In males however the condition may not result in any clinical signs, or urinary incontinence may develop much later in life.

An ultrasound screening programme developed for the Entlebucher mountain dogs has resulted in a 15% reduction in the incidence of ureteral ectopia over the past 3-4 years and has identified a 'carrier state' for this condition that is clinically silent and which may also be present in Golden retrievers. It is possible that a similar screening programme used in Golden retrievers could significantly reduce the incidence of the condition in this breed and further investigation may in time lead to the development of a DNA test.

What does the study involve?

Your dog will be admitted for an ultrasound scan of his/her bladder to assess the location of the ureteric openings. In order to perform the scan, no sedation or anaesthesia is required; however we will need to clip a small amount of hair from your dog's belly. The ultrasound scan will be performed and the location of the ureteric openings recorded. If the ureteric openings are not visible on initial examination, an oral diuretic tablet may be given to increase the frequency and power of the urine jets (you will have the opportunity to opt out of giving this medication if you wish).

Following the ultrasound scan, you will be provided with a printed result for your dog, which will include interpretation and, where appropriate, clinical advice. This information is confidential and will not be shared with any third party. If your dog is diagnosed with a silent ectopic ureter you will be offered an ultrasound scan of his/her kidneys and ureters free of charge to assess for any secondary effects, which could potentially be life-threatening and you can expect to receive appropriate treatment advice following that scan.

If you are willing for your dog to participate in DNA studies a cheek swab will also be taken and sent to the Animal Health Trust for analysis at a later date.

What are the risks?

If your dog is administered a dose of diuretic you should ensure that he/she has free access to water for 1-2 hours after the scan to prevent dehydration. There are no other risks to your dog's health in taking part in this study.

What are the costs involved?

All costs of the scan will be covered by a research grant.

What are the benefits of participating in the study?

The benefit to your own dog is a valuable free health check of his/her lower +/- upper urinary tract and identification of any clinically silent problems.

The wider benefits of participating in this study are to help determine whether or not ureteral ectopia is a significant problem in the Golden retriever and to determine whether males/females are most affected. You are also helping to develop a potential ultrasound screening test for this condition, which could result in a significant reduction of the number of affected puppies and/or a DNA test. The results of this study may also be applicable to other affected breeds e.g. Labrador retriever, Siberian Husky etc.

Inclusion of dogs in this study is entirely voluntary and if your dog is not included in this study, it will not in any way affect the care your dog receives at the QVSH now or in the future.

If you are happy for your dog to be included in this study, please sign the attached consent form.

Further information can be obtained from Mrs Laura Owen DipECVS (Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery & Principal investigator), who can be contacted via the small animal hospital reception on 01223 337621 or at lo247@cam.ac.uk

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Client consent form – Golden retriever ureteral screening study

Case No.	Owner's name	Animal's name	Age	Gender
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- I give permission for my dog to participate in the 'Preliminary assessment of an ultrasonographic screening method to identify the location of the ureteric openings in Golden retrievers' study.
 - I do/do not give permission for the oral administration of a diuretic (furosemide) should the ureteric openings not be visible with ultrasound alone.
 - I have been given the opportunity to read and understand the Owner Information Sheet regarding this study.
 - I have had the opportunity to ask questions and satisfactory answers have been given to me.
 - I understand that this permission is entirely voluntary and may be withdrawn by me at any time.

Signature of owner

Name (block capitals)

Date

In the event of further questions/queries regarding this study, please contact Laura Owen DipECVS (Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery & Principal Investigator) on 01223 337621 or at lo247@cam.ac.uk