



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WANTED

Labrador Retrievers and Rottweilers for Study of Cruciate Rupture

The Study

The cranial cruciate ligament, also known as the ACL, is a major stabilizing structure in the knee of dogs and people. Non-contact cruciate rupture (rupture not associated with any known trauma) occurs in about 6% of Labrador Retrievers and 9% of Rottweilers. It is responsible for 20% of canine lameness and burdens U.S. pet owners with at least \$1 billion in healthcare costs each year. It is accepted that a majority of ruptures are not associated with trauma, but the reason dogs rupture their ligament is not known. It is likely that part of the risk that an animal has for developing this condition is genetic (inherited). We are working to determine the genetic contributions to the development of cruciate ligament rupture in dogs.

Who Qualifies

There are 2 groups of dogs that currently qualify for the study:

- Labrador Retrievers and Rottweilers with knee problems due to a torn cruciate ligament (torn ACL)
- Any Labrador Retriever or Rottweiler over 8 years of age

What Happens

This study requires one visit to UW Veterinary Care and no sedation is required. All patients receive a free orthopedic examination from a

board-certified surgeon. Free radiographs (x-rays) are taken of both knees. Blood is collected for DNA analysis. Owners are asked to provide pedigree or registration papers, if available.

Why Participate

This work is expected to result in the development of a genetic test for cruciate ligament rupture in dogs. This test would be available for use by any veterinarian. A blood or saliva sample taken in puppyhood would identify dogs at risk for non-contact cruciate rupture. This will provide information for purchasing and breeding decisions and allow medical intervention to slow disease progression.

Moreover, it has long been established that dogs and humans share a similar profile of diseases, and cruciate rupture is no exception. Evidence exists for genetic contribution to ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) rupture in humans. Therefore, it is possible that this research will contribute to human as well as veterinary medical knowledge. There is no charge to participate in this study.

More Information

Please contact:

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For more information:

<http://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl>