



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

WANTED

Labrador Retrievers (8+ years) with Laryngeal Paralysis

The Study

The goal of this study is to further understand the underlying features of neuronal degeneration that occurs with laryngeal paralysis.

Laryngeal paralysis is a disease that most commonly affects older (9-13+ years) Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers, although other breeds can also be affected. The condition results in dogs having difficulty with breathing and mobility, which can become life-threatening.

Laryngeal paralysis is most commonly the result of a generalized progressive neurologic disease, meaning that the condition affects many nerves in the body, not just the nerve associated with the larynx (voice box).

The neurophysiologic features of this condition are currently unknown, but are important to understand when classifying underlying means by which nerves are degenerating.

Who Qualifies

Pure-Bred Labrador Retrievers older than 8 years of age that either receive surgical treatment for laryngeal paralysis or have clinical signs of inspiratory respiratory noise and a neurological examination suggestive of peripheral neuropathy.

What Happens

This study requires one visit to UW veterinary Care. All patients will receive a free physical and neurologic examination from a board-certified small animal neurologist or surgeon as well as a total T4 test to screen for hypothyroidism.

The patients will undergo a sedated examination using electrodiagnostics to evaluate how their motor nerves are conducting electrical signals along axons and in the muscles they innervate.

As part of an associated study, blood or saliva samples will be collected for DNA analysis. Owners are asked to provide pedigree or registration papers, if available.

Why Participate

The goal of this study is to better understand the neurophysiologic features of laryngeal paralysis. This information can be used along with associated genetics studies of laryngeal paralysis in order to improve clinical treatment of this condition with a focus on early intervention.

Furthermore, laryngeal paralysis is similar to human motor neuron diseases such as Charcot-Marie-Tooth disease. Thus, this study could contribute to a greater understanding of motor neuron diseases in both veterinary and human medicine.

There is no charge for participation in this study. All participants will be eligible to receive a \$100 incentive for participating in this work.

More Information

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact Ryan Anderson in the UW Veterinary Care Genetics Laboratory at rsanderson7@wisc.edu

For more information visit:
<https://www.vetmed.wisc.edu/lab/corl/>

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