



WCVM researchers seek golden retrievers for study

A study to evaluate potential genetic mutations that may be associated with golden retriever cystic uveal disease (pigmentary uveitis).

Q. What dogs can participate in this study?

The WCVM research team is seeking 46 dogs affected by the disease as well as 46 unaffected golden retrievers. Unaffected dogs must be 11 years or older. Participation is entirely voluntary. The team will provide a screening eye exam for purpose of certification for breeding or diagnosis. You can withdraw your dog from the study at any time by contacting the researchers.

Q. What does the study involve?

Dogs participating in this study must have one 30-minute visit with a WCVM veterinary ophthalmologist or at another satellite ophthalmology clinic. Visits to the WCVM will be free of charge. The ophthalmologist will conduct a complete eye exam on your dog and identify whether your pet has clinical signs of the condition. The ophthalmologist will also collect a blood sample and/or a cheek swab from your dog for DNA analysis. At the end of the exam, the specialist will provide you with the exam results along with an Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) exam form that can be used for certification.

Q. Why participate in this study?

With the information gained from this study, the research team's aim is to identify one or more genetic mutations that cause this disease in golden retrievers. Once researchers can identify this mutation, the information will assist dog breeders in selecting breeding animals and allow dog owners to predict expression of the disease.

Q. How will the study information be kept confidential?

No information that discloses your name or your animals' name will be released or published without your specific consent to the disclosure. Study records will use a numeric code instead of names.



Golden retriever cystic uveal disease or pigmentary uveitis is an insidious, blinding condition that has become common in the breed. The disease causes thin-walled cysts to develop in the affected dog's eye, which progresses to inflammation and then to painful and blinding glaucoma (increased pressure in the eyeball).

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