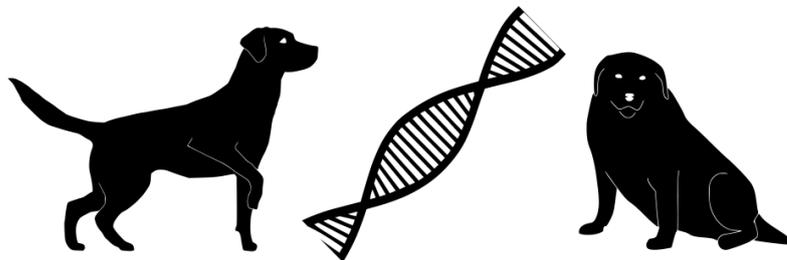


GODogs

Investigating the
Genetics of Obesity
in Dogs



Issue 2

November 2013

Welcome to the second GODogs newsletter – Exciting Progress to Report!

Samples are still coming in to us here at the University of Cambridge, and we have some exciting initial results which suggest we may have found a genetic signature which is associated with obesity in Labradors. There's a lot more work to do before we know if these findings are robust and 'real', but it's a great start. Thanks go to everyone who has contacted us, and a very big thank you to those who have posted in your samples – we have heard from dog owners and vets from Seahouses to Southampton!

But... we still need more dogs - Please help spread the word

We still need more samples from both lean and overweight dogs. At present, we are most keen to recruit dogs in either 'ideal' or 'overweight' categories. However, we are also happy to collect from dogs lying in between those groups in anticipation of future validation work so please do get in touch (if you are a dog owner) or collect a sample from a volunteer dog (if you are a vet or nurse) even if you aren't sure the dog is perfect for the initial genetic screen.

If you know of anyone who might have a suitable dog, please let them know about the project by sending them this newsletter or forwarding a link to the [website](#). Not sure? Help spread the word by 'liking' us on Facebook ([GODogs Project](#)) or following us on Twitter ([@GodogsProject](#)).



A new arrival!

Many of you have met Eleanor and been aware of a growing baby bump. This Autumn has seen the safe arrival of baby Ryan, so congratulations to Eleanor and Steve! Eleanor is currently on maternity leave but is still very involved with the project. Elaine Withers has recently joined the team as an Administrator to support Eleanor while she is on maternity leave, so do feel free to contact her either by phone on (01223) 336792 or by email:

GODogs@hermes.cam.ac.uk

Signing up veterinary practices across the country

We now have over 40 veterinary practices participating in the project. If you think that your local vet may be interested too, we would be happy to speak to them, send out a training pack and (if they are not too far from Cambridge) we can arrange to come and visit. Veterinary practices which have already signed up can be found on the website by clicking [here](#).

Obesity Workshops – Would you like to run one too?

Canine obesity is emerging as a significant threat to dogs' health and welfare, with obesity being associated with the development of all manner of diseases from breathing problems to arthritis and diabetes to cancer. If you would like to run a workshop on canine obesity – perhaps you are involved in a dog group, or your veterinary practice has an education programme for owners – please get in touch.

The Institute of Metabolic Science

GODogs is a small part of a large group of scientists investigating the science of obesity at the Wellcome Trust-MRC Institute of Metabolic Science (IMS). To find out, more visit the website [here](#).