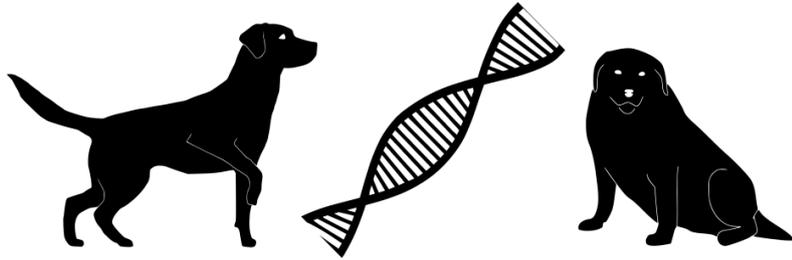


GODogs

Investigating the
Genetics of Obesity
in Dogs



Welcome to the first GODogs newsletter!

Over the past few months we've had a marvellous response to the project from vets and dog owners keen to help with the study and samples are starting to come in. Thank you to everyone who has shown an interest and particularly those who've submitted samples already.

We still need more dogs - Please help spread the word about GODogs!

Despite this good start, we still need lots more samples from both lean and overweight dogs. At present, we are most keen to recruit dogs either 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](#)).



Signing up veterinary practices across the country

Your local vet may be interested too; we now have a training pack for practices too far from Cambridge to be easily visited so are keen to sign up vets all around the country to help with recruitment. Veterinary practices which have already signed up can be found on the website by clicking [here](#). Special mention goes to Whitworth Vets in Suffolk and Northvet Vet Group in Orkney who currently head the table for sample recruitment. Great work!



Thank you to the Guide Dogs!

The Guide Dogs have an impressive set-up at their National Breeding Centre, with a careful programme of health monitoring for their dogs. GODogs are really grateful to the organisation who are working with us to sample their Labrador and golden retriever breeding stock for participation in the research.

Successful Obesity Workshop at Wood Green – Would you like to run one too?

Earlier in May Eleanor spoke to an audience of dog owners, veterinary nurses and others at Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester. The workshop covered the causes and consequences of obesity in dogs along with practical tips on the prevention and management of obesity in dogs. We also were able to collect samples from several dogs who were brought along by their owners. **If you would be interested in hosting a similar event at your vet practice or dog group, please get in touch.**



The Institute of Metabolic Science in the News

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). This week the Institute has received a £24m in its work. Professor Stephen O'Rahilly, director of the institute, says, "This joint initiative from the MRC and Wellcome Trust will provide exciting new opportunities to better understand the fundamental causes of disease such as obesity and diabetes and translate that knowledge into improved therapies".



You can listen to an interview with Prof. O'Rahilly about the research done in the IMS here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-22699326>