

## **STUDY OF SOFT TISSUE SARCOMAS IN THE FLAT-COATED RETRIEVER: INSTRUCTIONS TO VETERINARIANS**

The aim of this project is to identify recurrent chromosomal aberrations associated with canine soft tissue sarcomas, particularly those of histiocytic origin. Diagnosis is not required before sending samples. However, if pathology has been done, please include a copy of the pathology report. ***Dogs who have undergone chemotherapy or radiation treatments may not participate.***

Thank you for supporting your client's wish to participate in this important study. A common problem associated with submission of tissue samples for this study is that many do not arrive at Dr Breen's laboratory in a usable condition. To reduce this unfortunate waste, please follow the instructions below. If you have questions, feel free to contact Dr. Breen or his laboratory manager, Tessa Breen (E-mail: CVM\_K9Genomics@ncsu.edu; phone: 919-513-1466).

**Three samples are needed:** peripheral blood; viable tissue; fixed tissue.

### **SUPPLIES NEEDED:**

- Sterile pack for harvesting viable tumor sample
- EDTA tubes (lilac tops) - sufficient number for 10-20 mls of blood
- Sterile containers for viable tissue sample – e.g., a red top tube
- Specimen containers with formalin for preserved tissue sample
- Ziploc bags
- Labels (not water soluble)
- Cold/ice packs and shipping container

### **HOW TO COLLECT SAMPLES:**

#### **Peripheral blood samples**

Collect 10-20 ml of BLOOD in EDTA tubes (lilac tops). Mix well. Keep refrigerated until shipped (see shipping instructions below). Label with dog's name and client's name.

#### **Viable tumor samples**

TUMOR SAMPLES will be used for tissue culture. The cells must be FRESH, STERILE, and VIABLE. **Use sterile techniques** including for post-mortem samples (as soon as possible, not longer than 12 hours post mortem). Samples **MUST** be placed in sterile containers (e.g., a 5-ml red top tube) and kept refrigerated until shipped (see below) to preserve them in a viable condition.

Send tumor tissue only—no adjoining tissue or necrotic tissue. Minimum sample size: 5 mm x 3 mm x 3 mm (about the size of a small pea) - maximum size: 2 inch cube.

Label tubes with the dog's name and client's name and origin of the tissue (e.g., the affected organ or body part).

#### **Tumor sample preserved in formalin**

In addition to the viable tumor sample, please submit another tumor sample from the same tumor in a WELL-SEALED specimen container, PRESERVED IN FORMALIN. Label the tube as above, i.e., dog's name and tissue origin.

### **SHIPPING**

Viable TUMOR SAMPLES should be placed on ICE PACKS, refrigerated when collected, then shipped immediately overnight (via FedEx or DHL). **Samples must be received within 24 hours of shipping.** Be careful to observe all regulations for shipping viable tissues.

CONTACT DR. BREEN to advise that a parcel is being shipped. He will arrange to process the samples on their arrival. Samples **MUST** be shipped immediately - overnighted Monday-Thursday for Tuesday-Friday delivery. If samples are collected on a Friday or weekend, please refrigerate over the weekend and ship overnight on Monday to arrive Tuesday. PLEASE ship all viable samples with a cold pack, sealed, and well padded.

BLOOD SAMPLES may be sent separately from tumor samples by regular mail. If shipped along with tumor samples, please isolate the blood tubes in a Ziploc bag. Formalin-preserved samples should also be isolated in a Ziploc bag.

### **SHIP TO:**

Dr. Matthew Breen, Soft Tissue Sarcoma Project, NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine, CVM Research Building, 4700 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. Phone: 919-513-1467, office; 919-513-1466; Fax 919-513-7301; E-mail CVM\_K9Genomics@ncsu.edu