

## **BREEN STUDY INFO**

### **For Owners Planning to Have Tumor Samples Collected Postmortem**

1. As soon as your dog has been approved for Dr. Breen's study, request that a kit be sent to your home. When it arrives, put the tubes in a Ziplok bag and label it "BREEN" with a waterproof magic marker (or put a piece of paper with Breen's name on it inside the bag) and place the bag in your freezer. Also put the ice packs that came in the package in your freezer, labeled appropriately. Keep the shipping container in a conspicuous place where you will be able to find it in a hurry. Tape a copy of the vet flyer for Breen's study to the container.
2. Make a big sign and stick it on the door of your fridge reminding you of what you need to do when the time comes to let your dog go (see #5 and #6 below). Also, make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to help you orchestrate things at a time when you may be too upset to be thinking very clearly.
3. Give a copy of the flyer to your regular vet and ask him if he will be willing and able to do what is required. If not, ask him to recommend someone. Contact Dr. Breen (see below for contact info) and ask him to call the vet most likely to be collecting samples, in order to provide instructions and answer questions. Ask your vet to share the study information with the other vets in his practice, in case he is not on duty on the day you have to let your dog go.
4. In case your regular vet office is closed when you need to have your dog put to sleep, inquire about emergency clinics in your area (facilities that are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Speak with them about the research study needs and, if you have more than one emergency clinic to choose from, determine which will best be able to help.
5. Ideally, the solution in the tubes should be thawed slowly (i.e., in the fridge), so when you think that your dog's time is getting near, transfer the tubes from the freezer to the fridge (the solution will be stable in the fridge for two weeks).
6. When the time comes to take your dog to the vet for euthanasia, get the ice packs from the freezer and the tubes from the fridge (or freezer, if you did not have time to thaw them) and place them in the shipping container and take everything (including the flyer attached to the container) with you to the hospital.
7. Speak with the vet to confirm that the procedure will be performed in a timely manner; ideally, samples should be collected and shipped the same day that the dog is put to sleep. If the dog passes away at home in the middle of the night, the samples can be collected the next morning.
8. Soon after the samples are collected, check with your vet to make sure that the samples were collected and shipped. If the samples are collected Monday-Thursday, they should be mailed the same day for next day delivery. If the samples are collected too late in the day to be shipped on the same day, then they should be stored in the fridge overnight (and the ice packs in the freezer) and shipped the next day for delivery the following morning. If the samples are collected Friday-Sunday, then the samples should be kept in the fridge and the ice packs in the freezer until Monday, when they can be shipped for overnight delivery.
9. As soon as possible, contact Dr. Breen to let him know when to expect a shipment.

**Dr. Breen can be contacted at [CVM\\_K9Genomics@ncsu.edu](mailto:CVM_K9Genomics@ncsu.edu) or 919-513-1467**