



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

College of Veterinary Medicine

VETERINARY CLINICAL SCIENCES

Patient label

**Client Consent Form**  
**Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences**

**Study Title: Understanding the Genetic Basis of Hypotrichosis in American Water Spaniels**

You are invited to participate in a research study that may allow us to identify the gene or genes that cause hypotrichosis (baldness) in American Water Spaniels. This study is being conducted by Dr. Steven Friedenberg, Dr. Brian Husbands, and Dr. Sheila Torres in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences. Dr. Friedenberg is a canine geneticist, Dr. Husbands is a small animal oncologist with an interest in American Water Spaniels, and Dr. Torres is a small animal dermatologist. We ask that you read this form and ask any questions prior to agreeing to participate in this study.

**Background and Purpose**

Hypotrichosis or baldness is a trait which is common in some American Water Spaniels. This baldness seems to occur at a relatively young age, be more prevalent in certain pedigrees, and is not associated with any inflammatory condition or infectious agent. For these reasons, we suspect that there may be a genetic basis for the disease. The purpose of this study is to identify the gene or genes that cause this disease in the American Water Spaniel breed. Our hope is that by better understanding why this disease develops, that we can screen dogs before they show evidence of the disease and help breeders tailor their breeding programs.

**Study Procedures:**

If you give consent for your dog to participate in this study, a veterinarian or veterinary technician will collect approximately 1 teaspoon of blood (4-6 mL) from your dog and deliver it to the Canine Genetics Laboratory at the University of Minnesota so that we can evaluate his or her genetic makeup.

We will also collect information regarding your dog's prior medical history so that we can confirm that he or she has hypotrichosis. Alternatively, if we are collecting blood from your dog as a healthy control, we may use this information to confirm the absence of hypotrichosis. By signing this consent form, you are allowing us to have access to this information, along with other pertinent information in your pet's health record for use in our study. All information will be treated confidentially.

**Risks of study participation:**

The risks associated with participation in this study are minimal. Your dog may experience momentary pain during blood collection. Additionally, some dogs may develop a small amount of swelling or bruising at the site where blood is drawn. If a small bruise does develop, it should resolve on its own in a few days with no intervention.

**Benefits of study participation:**

The information obtained in this study may not benefit your pet directly, but will provide veterinarians with valuable information about hypotrichosis in American Water Spaniels.

**Study costs/compensation:**

There are no costs associated with participation in this study. The study investigators will pay for the blood tubes, shipping, and any analyses of the blood samples we collect.

**Confidentiality:**

All results will be treated confidentially. Information about your pet may be used in scientific presentations and/or publications. However, no personal or identifying information about you or your pet will be released. Your pet’s record for the study may, however, be reviewed by departments at the University of Minnesota with appropriate regulatory oversight. To these extents, confidentiality is not absolute. Study data will be encrypted according to current University policy for protection of confidentiality.

**Voluntary Participation:**

Participation in this study is voluntary. Your decision whether or not to participate in this study will not affect your current or future relations with the University, your veterinarian, or the Veterinary Medical Center. If you decide to participate, you are free to withdraw at any time without affecting those relationships.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns about this study.

**Investigators:** Dr. Steven Friedenbergr – Office phone: 612-624-5148, e-mail [fried255@umn.edu](mailto:fried255@umn.edu)  
Dr. Brian Husbands – Office phone: 612-624-7229, e-mail [husba002@umn.edu](mailto:husba002@umn.edu)  
Dr. Sheila Torres – Office phone: 612-625-3715, e-mail [torre009@umn.edu](mailto:torre009@umn.edu)

If you wish to speak to someone other than the investigators about your pet as a research participant, please contact the **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee** at 612-626-2126.

I have read the above information. I have asked questions and have received answers. I consent to participate in the study.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attending Veterinarian or Technician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date