

Pug Dog Encephalitis (PDE) Genetics Research Project

University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine

Information for Donation for Post Mortem (ie., autopsy) Examination

Examination of brain tissue after death is necessary to diagnose PDE (now known as NME or necrotizing meningoencephalitis). Once a diagnosis has been made, the tissue can also be used for research. This research is multifaceted. The primary project at this time is to better understand the genetics behind PDE in the pug dog breed. Also, tissues will be saved to study how and why this disease happens, including evaluation of gene expression and immunological patterns.

Renee Barber, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Neurology), a board-certified veterinary neurologist at the University of Georgia (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine, leads the PDE Genetics Research Project. She partners with several world-renowned veterinary neuropathologists that will help with evaluation of the brain tissue.

If you would consider donating your dog following its natural death or euthanasia, please use the following guidelines:

1. If the dog is deceased please contact us to determine if the dog is in appropriate condition for an exam.
2. If this is to be a scheduled euthanasia it is important to schedule and prepare for shipment in advance. If possible, euthanasia should be scheduled early in the week.
3. After death, your veterinarian can help acquire the necessary samples to be shipped.
4. Alternatively, the body can be shipped by FedEx or other carriers by overnight mail or delivered directly to Dr. Barber at the University of Georgia Veterinary Teaching Hospital **within 24 hours of euthanasia or death**. If shipped, the body must be at refrigeration temperature (not frozen), and packed with frozen cold packs. It works well if the veterinarian holds the dog for shipment, packs the box, and the box is taken to FedEx or picked up from the clinic. The body should be shipped overnight as soon as possible, on the same day as euthanasia. Animals delivered directly to the UGA VTH also should be brought in no later than 24 hours after death.
5. Please contact Dr. Renee Barber -AND- Lisa Reno at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine when euthanasia is being planned. One of us will promptly get in touch with your veterinarian regarding sample collection and shipment.
6. Diagnosis of PDE is done at no cost to you, but shipping costs must be paid by the client if the whole body is shipped. If only brain tissue is being sent, Lisa Reno can send the veterinarian a pre-paid shipping label.
7. If needed, cremation services can be arranged for a fee of approximately \$200-250.
8. Your veterinarian or veterinary neurologist can send medical records to Lisa Reno and Dr. Barber, including MRI, and CSF when available.

Contact info:

1. Lisa Reno lisar@uga.edu/706-296-7818
2. Dr. Renee Barber rbarber1@uga.edu

Packages can be shipped to:

Attention: Renee Barber and Lisa Reno
Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery
University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine
2200 College Station Road
Athens, GA 30602

Please email Dr. Barber and Lisa Reno prior to shipping and **SEND BOTH OF US THE TRACKING NUMBER AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE**. Also, please have the sender monitor the package until delivery.

Thank you very much for considering this option at a very difficult time for you. We appreciate that your dog was an important companion and we are very sorry for your loss. Our goal to understand and reduce the incidence of this condition will benefit from your decision. Pugs are very special and we love them all.

May 27, 2020