



Peter Williamson

Associate Professor of Genomics
Associate Dean for Research

INFORMATION STATEMENT

Research Project

TITLE: Investigation of an inherited neurodegenerative disorder in Australian Kelpie dogs

(1) What is the study about?

We are collecting blood/tissue samples that will assist us to find the genes for cerebellar ataxia (ataxia) in Australian Kelpie dogs. This study will lead to genetic tests to help breeders produce healthy animals.

(2) Who is carrying out the study?

The study is being conducted by Associate Professor Peter Williamson and colleagues from the Faculty of Veterinary Science.

(3) What does the study involve?

If you agree to the participation of your dog(s) in this study, you will be asked to allow some or all of the following procedures to be undertaken on your dog(s):

- a) Blood collection (**see part 4 below**) – DNA will be extracted from these samples to better understand how genes vary between different dogs and the consequences of this for their wellbeing and health.
- b) Clinical examination – you may choose to allow the research team and veterinary staff to perform a detailed clinical examination on your dog(s).

If your dog has been clinically diagnosed with this neurological condition by your local vet and you have decided to euthanize your dog, you may wish to donate your dog. In this case, the following procedures may be undertaken:

- a) Diagnostic imaging prior to the euthanasia.
- b) Necropsy for tissue collection.

(4) What are the options for sample collection?

1. Arrange for collection of sample by your veterinarian/ or request a home visit. If convenient, you may visit our facilities located on the main Camperdown campus.
2. Blood in EDTA tube (2~10 ml) gives a large amount of DNA useful for many tests needed for research. This is the preferred option for close relatives of ataxia cases. Requires a vet visit to have blood taken.

To mail non-infectious blood samples, they need to be wrapped according to postal regulations. Use enough absorbent material (e.g. cotton wool) to absorb spills and place inside a second leak proof container (e.g. screw cap plastic bottle) and supported so it will not be crushed in transit. DO NOT freeze blood before shipping (can refrigerate), ship at room temperature without the ice pack.

3. Label sample with animal's name.

4. Send samples with **consent forms** and **pedigree information** by post to:

Attention: Peter Williamson
Room 551/552, RMC Gunn Building, B19
Faculty of Veterinary Science
Regimental Crescent
The University of Sydney
Sydney, NSW 2006,
AUSTRALIA

(5) Is there a charge for submitting samples for research?

There is no charge to submit samples to the research. Donations to support the research are welcome and can be made to Peter Williamson.

(6) Can I withdraw my animal from the study?

Being in this study is completely voluntary - you are not under any obligation to consent and, if you do consent, you can withdraw your animal, at any time without affecting your relationship with the University of Sydney.

(7) Will anyone else know the results?

All aspects of the study, including individual results, will be strictly confidential and only the researchers will have access to information on your dog. A report of the study may be submitted for publication or conference presentation, but individual participants will not be identifiable in such a report. Sample information and DNA may be shared with research collaborators with your permission.

(8) Will the study benefit my animal?

While the study may not benefit your animal directly, it will benefit future animals in your breed.

(9) Can I tell other people about the study?

You are welcome to tell people about your participation in this study.

(10) What if I require further information?

When you have read this information, Associate Professor Williamson will discuss it with you further and answer any questions you may have. If you would like to know more at any stage, please feel free to contact Associate Professor Williamson on (02) 9351-3653, or by email to: p.williamson@sydney.edu.au.

(11) What if I have a complaint or concerns?

Any person with concerns or complaints about the conduct of a research study can contact the Animal Secretariat, University of Sydney on (02) 8627-8174 (Telephone); (02) 8627 8180 (Facsimile).