



## DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

University of Alaska Fairbanks  
College of Natural Science and Mathematics

# Canine Model Pilot Study on Cognitive Decline

### Criteria:

- Age 8-11 years
- Weight 22-65 pounds
- Mild to moderate cognitive impairment on CADES scale
- No other significant health problems

### Covered expenses:

- Initial physical exam and lab work (up to \$370)
- MRI x 2 (scan and anesthesia and radiologist review)
- 3-month follow-up physical exam and lab work (up to \$370)

### Protocol:

1. Contact UAF with pre-screening candidate to **enroll\***.
  - a. Greg Pietsch: [gpietsch@alaska.edu](mailto:gpietsch@alaska.edu) or 907-474-1838
2. At veterinary visit screen dog with CADES questionnaire to identify mild to moderate cognitive impairment.
3. If mild to moderate cognitive impairment, UAF will pay for the physical exam.
4. If there are no significant health problems on physical exam, UAF will pay for a CBC, Chemistry, TT4, and UA. Please also collect and freeze a plasma sample that we can submit for P-Tau analysis.
5. If there are no significant health problems on lab work, UAF will pay for anesthesia and an MRI of brain at UAF along with radiologist interpretation.
6. 3 months later (UAF covers the above 3-month follow-up expenses):
  - a. With their veterinarian repeat CADES questionnaire, physical exam and CBC, Chemistry, TT4, and UA to identify any health changes.
  - b. Please also collect and freeze a plasma sample that we can submit for P-Tau analysis.
  - c. Repeat an MRI of brain at UAF along with radiologist interpretation.
7. Submit invoices for covered expenses to UAF for payment, please reference study on invoice.

\*Expenses are only covered for enrolled patients.

