



UW Veterinary Care
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

LOOKING FOR Healthy Dogs & Dogs with Neurologic Conditions

Powassan Virus Surveillance Project

The Study

Powassan virus is related to West Nile virus and causes sporadic disease in people. This is mainly due to inflammation of the brain following a bite by an infected tick. A closely related European virus, Tick-Borne Encephalitis virus, causes a similar disease in both dogs and humans. However, it is currently not known if Powassan poses a risk to North American dogs. Blood collected for routine testing from healthy dogs will be used to search for this virus. Spinal fluid collected for testing in dogs with neurologic conditions may also be used to isolate the Powassan virus.

Who Qualifies

Any healthy dog undergoing routine blood testing for heartworm disease, medical screening, etc. Patients with neurologic conditions that are scheduled to undergo a spinal tap as part of their medical work-up may also qualify.

What Happens

Blood is drawn for routine testing. Upon completion of these tests, any excess blood is normally discarded. In this study, this extra blood is used to search for Powassan virus. Dogs with neurologic conditions often undergo a spinal tap for collection of spinal fluid as part of the work-up to diagnose their condition. Upon completion

of the required tests, any excess spinal fluid is discarded. The study will examine this fluid for evidence of Powassan virus.

Why Participate

Powassan virus may be a new threat to dogs and people within North America. Testing for the presence of this disease aids in early detection and prevention. There is no cost to participate.

More Information

If you are interested in participating in this study, please contact the Dr. Kate Irvine at 608-263-7600 or ask your clinician.

