At UW Veterinary Care, our expert clinicians and staff are dedicated to raising the standard of care by using the latest technologies, while also performing research to advance veterinary and human medicine now and in the future. Clinical studies allow us to develop more effective diagnostic and treatment options for patients and many studies offer some financial incentive. Past studies led to the development of new treatments for cancer, orthopedic conditions and fungal disease in cats. Prior to entering any study, the standard of care protocol along with clinical study options are discussed with clients.

Clinical studies often need healthy animals as “controls” or comparison dogs to determine if a treatment is effective.

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **What is a clinical study?**
   Clinical studies involve researching new medications, treatments, tests or devices to determine if they improve patients’ health and well-being. Clinical studies may be called clinical trials or clinical research.

2. **How can my pet participate?**
   All studies have specific criteria regarding species of animal, condition to be treated, current medications, etc. Information on the requirements for each study are included on our website. Check back often for new studies to open. Clinical studies are always voluntary. No animals are entered into a study without the full understanding and permission of the client.

3. **What are the benefits or risks?**
   Patients participating in a study may receive treatments not available to the general population. A pet may or may not benefit from this, however, all studies advance scientific knowledge. New drugs and protocols may have side effects and studies may require more frequent visits to the UW Veterinary Care for recheck exams and laboratory tests. All studies are reviewed and require approval by the School of Veterinary Medicine’s Animal Care and Use Committee to assure minimal risk to the patient.

4. **What does it cost?**
   The cost of participation varies with the individual study. Many studies are funded by grants that cover part or all of the treatment costs. All fees are discussed prior to a patient entering a study.

For information on all clinical studies, please visit: uwveterinarycare.wisc.edu/clinical-studies