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MARCH Press Release for Osteosarcoma Project

We wanted to provide you with a further update on the Rottweiler Osteosarcoma Project.

We have now begun evaluating our DNA swabs, once complete this will form the largest study in the world looking into the genetics of Osteosarcoma in Rottweilers, with almost 1000 dogs to date. We would like to keep collecting swabs if you are still keen to submit them. Please continue to provide us with your details via Shareen and the swabs can be sent out over the coming months. Further swabs will help to reinforce our findings and make them even more useful to the dogs that are taking part and for those in the future. So in summary, although currently the biggest study in the world, this part of the project is definitely not closed, the more swabs we have the more valuable the results will be.

We have received a number of tumour samples from Rottweilers that have sadly developed Osteosarcoma. These samples are priceless and we sincerely thank all of you that have been and are willing to be involved. We still need more samples and so are still collecting these. Once we have two more we will begin the analysis. Please continue to contact us as before (mark.dunning@nottingham.ac.uk) if your Rottweiler develops or is suspected to have developed Osteosarcoma. We can then help organise the appropriate samples to be taken. Please note, we are not asking for samples from your dog's tumours unless they are already having samples taken or are having surgery for their disease.

We have also completed the initial review of the questionnaire data from Shareen's project and this has provided some very interesting findings. Shareen has worked tirelessly on this aspect of the project and is soon to have her viva examination. We are sure you will all wish her well for this. Once she has completed her exam she will provide a summary to the breed society. We will also be submitting this part of the project to a science journal so that the wider veterinary community can benefit from everyone's efforts. The findings from this part of the project will help to you to consider some aspects of lifestyle that seem to influence Osteosarcoma development in this UK Rottweiler population.

With best wishes

Mark Dunning
mark.dunning@nottingham.ac.uk

Nigel Mongan
svznpm@exmail.nottingham.ac.uk