



Office of Veterinary  
Clinical Investigation  
VETERINARY MEDICINE & BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

## VETERINARY CLINICAL TRIAL

# GENETICS OF INHERITED HEART DISEASE IN BORZOI DOGS AND OTHER SIGHTHOUND BREEDS



Recent research in Borzoi dogs has revealed that the breed may experience sudden, unexplained death. About 85% of sudden, unexplained deaths in humans are linked to an underlying heart disease. Our existing research in Borzoi dogs has shown that they are predisposed to developing arrhythmias (abnormal heart rhythms) and dilated cardiomyopathy (a heart muscle disease causing dilated heart chambers and weak pumping function). Our study aims to identify genetic mutations associated with heart disease in Borzoi dogs and document their existence in other sighthound breeds.



*Scan to learn more.*

### ELIGIBILITY

- Borzoi dogs and other sighthound breeds are eligible to participate.
- There are no age or sex requirements.
- Electronic or paper veterinary medical records must be provided.

### WHAT HAPPENS

- We will collect saliva samples from both healthy sighthound breeds and sighthound breeds affected by arrhythmias and/or dilated cardiomyopathy.
- We will extract DNA from these samples and perform genomic sequencing on a select number while retaining the remainder for further screening.
  - By analyzing the sequencing data, we can compare the genes of healthy and affected dogs and identify variants linked to their heart conditions.
- We will also compare the findings in Borzoi dogs to results from other sighthound breeds.

### FINANCIAL INCENTIVES/OBLIGATIONS

- No direct compensation is provided for participation.

### PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

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