

Patient Participation in Clinical Research Owner Consent Form

Study Title: Respiratory virus surveillance in domestic and farm animals

Purpose of the Study: You are being invited to participate in a study being conducted by Dr. Jonathan Runstadler from Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. This study will help us learn if SARS-CoV-2 (Coronavirus), the virus that causes COVID-19 disease, is able to be transmitted from humans to animals in close contact, and determine if Influenza A is associated with Coronavirus infection in animals. Influenza A is sometimes seen in companion animals, and we want to know if symptoms are similar and if animals can have both at once.

Activities and Duration of the Study: If you agree to participate, you will be asked to complete a 10-15 minute survey. If your animal is being seen on the Tufts Veterinary campus or by the Tufts ambulatory staff, trained personnel will review your animal's medical records and collect oral and/or nasal swabs from your animal for diagnostic testing. If you are enrolling your animal remotely, you will be provided with a sampling packet and information on how to collect, store, and ship oral and/or nasal swabs from your animal. When Coronavirus testing is completed, you will be contacted with your animal's results. We anticipate this will take under a week.

Potential Risks Associated with the Study:

- Oral and nasal swabbing are routine procedures and there are no significant risks expected to be associated with sample collection. Your animal may experience temporary stress or discomfort, similar to those experienced during a routine visit.
- There is a risk of loss of confidentiality. To minimize this risk, your responses and animal's sample will be coded and kept separate from your personal information. Your responses and personal information will not be shared with anyone outside the research team and Tufts University veterinary staff.
- There is risk of personal discomfort or fear from results. It is important to understand that these tests are only suitable for research and are not approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). These tests were not developed for animals, and are more likely to have inaccurate or incorrect results than a clinically-approved test. We encourage all participants to practice current best public health guidance, including hand wash hygiene and social distancing. We encourage participants to call their primary care physician in the event of a putative (potential) positive SARS-CoV-2 result to determine if they need to self-quarantine or be tested. **There is currently no evidence that domestic or farm animals can transmit SARS-CoV-2 to humans.**

Potential direct or indirect benefits from the study: Your pet’s participation will allow us to gain information about Coronavirus and Influenza A. We will share the results of all participants as a group without individual information to improve public health guidance during the Coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19). You may view group results at <https://sites.tufts.edu/covers>

Voluntary Participation: This study has been reviewed by the Tufts Health Sciences Institutional Review Board and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, who oversee research at Tufts University. You will not be compensated for your participation, and there is no cost to participate in the study. You may refuse to participate, or you may stop participation at any time during the study without adversely affecting any present or future care at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. You can skip questions that you do not want to answer or stop the survey at any time. You may stop your animal’s participation in the study at any time. You understand that this is a clinical research protocol and you understand the potential benefits and risks of having your animal participate in this study. In the event of a complication arising from your animal’s care at a Tufts facility, regardless of participation in the study, the appropriate medical or surgical care will be provided, and you will remain financially liable for the cost of such care. You understand that Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University and their respective trustees, officers, employees and agents will not be held liable for any unforeseen events arising from this study.

Conclusion: You have read and understand the information provided on this consent form and have had the goals and potential risks and benefits of the study fully explained. Upon signing below, you will receive a copy of the consent form. Thank you for your participation in this study.

Questions? Please contact the CoVERS study at jonathan.runstadler@tufts.edu or 508-263-0074.

I, _____ of _____, am the legal owner of
[PRINTED NAME OF OWNER] [ADDRESS OF OWNER]

_____, a _____ year-old _____.
[NAME OF ANIMAL] [AGE] [SPECIES AND BREED, IF KNOWN].

I do hereby give my consent to have my animal participate in the described research study.

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Signature of Owner

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Date