**Evaluation of Swallowing Function in Dogs with Pneumonia**

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**Purpose of Study:** The purpose of this study is to evaluate swallowing function in dogs with pneumonia using fluoroscopy. Pneumonia is one of the most common causes of acute and chronic respiratory disease. Aspiration pneumonia occurs when food, saliva, liquids, or vomitus is breathed into the airways. In people abnormal swallowing function has been shown to be a predisposing factor for aspiration pneumonia, this relationship has not been identified in dogs. To evaluate swallowing function, in this study we will perform a video fluoroscopic swallowing examination (VFSE) to determine if your pet has a swallowing disorder that may have predisposed to aspiration pneumonia.

**Eligibility:** To be eligible for participation in this study, the dog must have clinical signs and radiographic (X-rays) evidence of pneumonia on chest radiographs.

**Procedures:** (Some of these tests may be performed by the referring veterinarian).
At the time of initial visit to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH):
1. Complete history and physical examination*
2. Blood tests Health panel (CBC, serum biochemistry profile, resting T4 and urine analysis). Other tests as are medically indicated
3. Three view thoracic radiographs (Chest X-rays)*
4. Video fluoroscopic swallowing examination (VFSE)*

At the time of 4 weeks recheck from initial diagnosis of pneumonia:
1. Complete history and physical examination*
2. Thoracic radiographs (Chest X-rays) at the time of recheck (3-views)*
3. Video fluoroscopic swallowing exam at the time of recheck*

*Covered by research funds

**Associated Risks:** Chest X-rays and VFSE are very safe and non-invasive procedures; the potential benefit of an accurate diagnosis far outweighs the risk. Administration of barium contrast media involves a remote risk of barium going into lungs, but this does not usually cause any problems.

**Expenses Not Covered:** Costs of the new patient fee ($14; if applicable), hospitalization, additional testing (including any additional lab work), additional imaging (including radiographs), treatment of the underlying disease will be the financial obligation of the owner.
Benefits: If the patient has met the inclusion criteria described, the swallowing examination at admission, as well as the follow-up chest x-rays and swallowing examination will be paid by research funds. Owners of dogs that fully complete the study will receive a credit for future services at the VTH. If we identify a swallowing disorder, recommendations can be made in order to reduce or prevent future occurrences of this potentially fatal problem. This may involve further diagnostic testing and may also include strategies to help your pet swallow better.

Confidentiality: Owner and patient confidentiality will be maintained. No identification of individuals shall be made when reporting or publishing the data arising from this study.

Questions Additional questions about this project may be directed to Dr. Stan I Rubin or Dr. Julie A Danner at 217-552-0461 (DVMs) or 217-333-5300 (pet owners). Please alert the receptionist that you have a question about this study.