

**OWNER PERMISSION AND RELEASE TO USE PRIVATELY OWNED ANIMALS IN
RESEARCH** The Pennsylvania State University

Title of Protocol: Surveillance for antibodies to H5 avian influenza virus in hunting dogs

IACUC Protocol Number: PROTO202302394

Principal Investigator: Justin Brown, DVM, PhD

Address: 108D AVBS Building, Shortlidge Road, University Park, PA 16802 Telephone

Numbers: Weekdays: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (814) 863-4883

Owner's Printed Name: _____

We are asking for your permission and release for your animal(s) to participate in a research study. Whether or not you and your animal(s) take part is up to you. You can choose not to take part. You can agree to take part and later change your mind. Your decision will not be held against you, and there will be no penalty.

This form gives you information about the research. Please ask questions about anything that is unclear to you and take your time to make your choice.

You, the undersigned, are being asked to allow your animal(s) to participate in research conducted by The Pennsylvania State University ("Penn State"). By signing this form, you are providing permission for your animal(s) to participate in this study and for Penn State researchers to interact with your animal(s) and use any data and samples for the study and other research purposes described here. This document is only intended to govern involvement of your animal(s) in the study; consent for your participation as a study subject, if applicable, will be governed by a separate informed consent executed by you to participate in human subjects research.

In addition to the Principal Investigator contact information above, you may also contact the Penn State Institutional Animal Care and Use Program (IACUC) at (814) 865-1775 or visit the IACUC website at <https://www.research.psu.edu/iacuc> if you:

- Have questions or want to confirm IACUC approval of this research study before participation.
- Have concerns regarding the research or want to report an animal welfare concern.
- You may also call this number if you cannot reach the research team or wish to offer input or to talk to someone else about any concerns related to the research.

STUDY AND PARTICIPATION DETAILS

The following is information about this study to help you decide whether or not to be a part of this research. If you have any questions, be sure to ask the study team.

Study Overview:

The purpose of this research is to test hunting dogs for previous exposure to avian influenza virus. Wild waterfowl are reservoirs for the strain of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus that is currently

causing outbreaks in wild birds and poultry in North America. There have been sporadic reports of the virus being detected in wild canids (red fox, coyotes) and other mammals. However, there have not been any reports of this virus in North American domestic dogs during the current outbreak. It is currently unknown how often dogs are infected with this virus and remain asymptomatic or exhibit mild clinical signs. Due to the widespread circulation of virus in wild birds, it is prudent to look for evidence of exposure in hunting dogs that may be at increased risk.

Amount of Owner Involvement:

We request that you fill out the questionnaire provided to you by the veterinarian collecting the sample. If you have any questions or concerns relating to the questions being asked, please ask for clarification.

What is the involvement of your animal(s) in this study and what data and/or samples will be collected? Basic information on hunting/training activities of your dog will be collected in the questionnaire along with vaccination status against canine influenza virus. The veterinarian will collect a small amount of blood from your dog that will be later tested in a laboratory for antibodies to avian influenza virus.

What are the main risks of your animal(s) participating in the study?

We do not anticipate any complications from this blood collection, which is a common procedure in veterinary medicine. It is possible that a small area of bruising (hematoma) can form at the blood collection site. However gentle digital pressure will be applied to the site where the needle is inserted for several minutes to reduce the likelihood of this happening. Blood collection will be conducted by an experienced veterinarian and veterinary technician team.

Will owners receive any summary of research results or data after participation? You will be notified of the antibody testing results as soon as they are available, which may take several weeks. We will contact you via email or phone, whichever you prefer and indicate on the questionnaire form.

What will happen to the animal research information and/or samples after the study is completed? We intend to continue this research for the next three years. Once the testing has been completed, data from the antibody testing and questionnaires will be analyzed to summarize the results. Serum samples will be retained in a freezer at Penn State University after the study is completed for a minimum of 3 years.

_____ Initial to indicate that your dog is up-to-date on its rabies vaccination

Permission And Release

By signing this Agreement, You hereby provide Penn State and its researchers permission to interact with Your animal(s) in the manner described above for the purposes of this study. You also hereby provide Penn State and its researchers permission to collect data and samples described above from Your animal(s). You agree that all such data and samples collected are owned by Penn State, and may be used for the study, any future research purposes, and the non-research purposes described above without compensation to You. You represent that You are the owner of the animal(s) and/or have the legal right to provide access to the animal(s) as described herein.

While the study is designed to minimize contact and interaction of the animal(s) with the researchers, You understand and acknowledge that animal(s) can be unpredictable and may demonstrate behavior or movements that could give rise to harm to the animal(s), individuals, and property. You agree that neither Penn State nor its researchers are liable for, and hereby release Penn State, its officers, directors, trustees, employees and its researchers from any claim, demand, loss, or liability of any kind whatsoever arising from your animal's involvement in this study.

_____ **Signature**

_____ **Printed Name**

_____ **Date**