

## **WHAT IS THE CHOW CHOW STOMACH CANCER STUDY?**

The University of Minnesota Animal Cancer Center is conducting a study to determine the cause of stomach cancer in Chow Chows. Our research shows that Chows have 10 to 20 times the risk of developing stomach cancer (gastric adenocarcinoma) compared to other dogs. This type of cancer is usually diagnosed when it is no longer treatable and it is fatal in over 90% of cases. Early detection and prevention of this disease depends on recognition of factors that contribute to causing stomach cancer in Chow Chows. The purpose of our research is to identify the genetic and environmental factors that lead to stomach cancer in Chows.

## **WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF STOMACH CANCER?**

The signs of stomach cancer can be very vague and subtle. Any following could indicate stomach cancer:

**Vomiting, Diarrhea, Bloat, Dark tarry stool, Weight loss, Lack of appetite, Loss of energy**

NOTE: Not all dogs have all of the signs!

## **HOW CAN I HELP FIGHT STOMACH CANCER IN CHOWS?**

We are interested in collecting blood samples and pedigrees from any Chow, either affected (showing signs of stomach cancer) or unaffected (not showing signs of stomach cancer). These will be used to create a DNA bank and to help identify genes that cause disease. For dogs that have signs of stomach cancer or are related to dogs diagnosed with stomach cancer, testing is available. Screening tests in many cases may be at no cost.

## **NEED MORE INFORMATION?**

Please contact us at the information below if you are interested in our study.

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