SHINE ON Phase 3 FAQs

1. IS MY DOG ELIGIBLE FOR TESTING?
   To be eligible for Phase 3 testing, your dog MUST:
   A. Be a purebred Golden Retriever, Portuguese Water Dog, or Boxer
      i. You must provide your dog's AKC number, OR
      ii. If your dog is unregistered you must provide a pedigree
   B. Be at least 6 years old at time of enrollment
   C. Be in general good health
   D. Live in the 48 contiguous states of the U.S.

2. I KNOW MY DOG IS PUREBRED, BUT I DON'T HAVE AN AKC NUMBER OR PEDIGREE. IS MY DOG ELIGIBLE?
   Unfortunately, no. Samples will not be accepted for submission without either an AKC number or pedigree.

3. IS MY DOG ELIGIBLE IF HE/SHE HAS A CHRONIC OR GENETIC DISEASE?
   Dogs with certain chronic or genetic conditions, such as elbow or hip dysplasia, uveitis, or well controlled allergies, will be eligible. If you have questions about your dog's health status eligibility, please contact Mitzi Lewellen, study coordinator, at lewel001@umn.edu

4. DOES IT MATTER IF MY DOG IS INTACT, SPAYED, OR NEUTERED?
   No! Either gender, intact or altered, is eligible.
5. I'M A VET (OR BREEDER, OR BOTH) -- CAN I SUBMIT MY OWN DOG’S BLOOD?
   No, blood must be drawn and submitted by a licensed veterinarian who is not an owner or co-owner of the dog. All communications will be through the submitting veterinarian, who will share the results with the owner.

6. MY DOG IS SICK AND I’M WORRIED THAT HE/SHE MAY HAVE CANCER. CAN I SUBMIT BLOOD TO THIS STUDY AND FIND OUT?
   This study requires participants to be in good health. If your dog is sick, and especially if you suspect your dog has cancer, we strongly advise having him/her examined by your dog’s veterinarian.

7. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE TEST?
   Within about 10 days, the submitting veterinarian will be notified of one of the following:
   
   A. You will be asked to submit another blood sample at a specific time. The timing for re-testing is determined by study protocol (randomized) and will have no special meaning. Most dogs will be retested between 2-weeks and 3-months apart. Some dogs will be retested a third time
      
   OR
   
   B. Some owners will not be asked to submit a second sample from their dog. If scheduling permits and if the owner wishes to have their dog retested, they will be eligible 90 days after the initial test. It is possible that a second test may not be available for all dogs.

8. THE REPORT MY VET RECEIVED SAYS THAT MY DOG NEEDS TO COME BACK IN FOR RE-TESTING. DOES THIS MEAN MY DOG TESTED POSITIVE AND HAS CANCER?
   No, the timing for re-testing is determined by the study protocol (randomized) and will have no special meaning.
9. **WILL MY VETERINARIAN RECEIVE A REPORT THAT IDENTIFIES MY DOG AS “POSITIVE” OR “NEGATIVE?”**

At the end of testing, a final report will be provided to your dog's veterinarian stating whether cells were present in the blood that could indicate risk for development of hemangiosarcoma.

10. **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY DOG TESTS NEGATIVE?**

The test looks for specific cells in the blood. Dogs with increased numbers of these cells may have an increased risk of hemangiosarcoma. Blood samples that do not contain these cells will be considered “negative.” If the schedule permits, these dogs will be eligible for re-testing 90-days after their second test.

11. **WHAT HAPPENS IF MY DOG TESTS POSITIVE?**

For dogs that have a positive test result, we will include recommendations for follow-up in the report to the veterinarian. These recommendations will include thorough physical examination, routine laboratory tests, and possibly diagnostic imaging to identify if a tumor is present. It is especially important to note that two positive test results do **not** necessarily mean or confirm that your dog has cancer.

A. If, after additional testing, there is no evidence of a detectable tumor, your dog may be eligible for experimental preventative treatment with eBAT, **offered only at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center.** Treatment with eBat consists of three doses over a 5-day period. Scheduling for treatment and re-testing will be done for each case individually, with the goal to make the experience, including travel to the Twin Cities, as easy as possible.

   **OR**

B. If a tumor is found, the dog will not be eligible for the experimental treatment, but yearly detection might improve the potential for successful treatment. It is your responsibility to discuss treatment options with your dog’s veterinarian.

12. **MY DOG TESTED POSITIVE, BUT WE CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN EBAT PREVENTION. SHOULD I START CANCER TREATMENTS OR OTHER PREVENTION?**

No. A positive test does not necessarily mean or confirm that your dog has cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, immunotherapy, herbal or complementary therapies, or any other cancer treatments are not indicated based on the results of this test.
13. MY DOG TESTED NEGATIVE BUT HAS A STRONG FAMILY HISTORY OF HEMANGIOSARCOMA. CAN I BRING MY DOG IN FOR THE EXPERIMENTAL PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT, JUST TO BE SAFE?
No. Only dogs that have a positive test result, as described above, will have the option of receiving the experimental treatment.

14. I HAVE TWO ELIGIBLE DOGS; CAN I ENROLL BOTH OF THEM? Yes, you may enroll more than one of your dogs, but we will only be able to schedule a certain number of tests each week. When you are contacted to schedule sample submission, it may be necessary to arrange sending samples from each of your dogs on different days (or different weeks), depending on slots available.

15. IF MY DOG IS ELIGIBLE, WHAT IS THE COST OF THE EXPERIMENTAL PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT?
If your dog is eligible, the experimental preventative treatment will be provided at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center at no cost to you.

16. WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS OF THE EXPERIMENTAL PREVENTATIVE TREATMENT?
The experimental preventative treatment has been given safely to 50 dogs. Possible side effects include a drop-in blood pressure and possibly an increase in laboratory values associated with liver function. In our experience so far, changes in blood pressure have been manageable with injectable saline solution, and the changes in liver values have corrected on their own after a few days.

17. WILL THE STUDY PAY FOR COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRAVEL TO THE TWIN CITIES TO RECEIVE THERAPY?
Unfortunately, study funds are not available to pay for travel costs.

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