Background

- Large bowel (colon and rectum) disease can cause signs of constipation, diarrhea, or frank blood in the stool, and in the case of focal lesions such as polyps or cancer, surgery may be indicated. Surgical planning can be difficult as there are many ways to surgically approach lesions of the large bowel. However appropriate surgical planning plays a very large role in the success of the procedure. Colonoscopy is the current gold standard method for evaluating this part of the bowel, but there are limitations to the information this type of imaging may provide to a surgeon. Three-dimensional imaging, such as computed tomography (CT), is likely to improve our understanding of the disease and our surgical planning in cases of mass lesions. Therefore, we are evaluating the benefits of a novel CT protocol for large bowel disease.

Participation Requirements

- Dogs experiencing clinical signs of large bowel disease (colon or rectum) such as large bowel diarrhea, difficulty defecating, or frank blood in the stool.
- Diagnosis of a mass lesion is NOT a requirement for study participation; dogs with diffuse disease are desired as well.

Procedures

- While under general anesthesia for your dog’s scheduled colonoscopy, your dog will receive a CT scan using a new technique. He/she will then proceed for his/her colonoscopy/biopsy procedure as planned.

Owner Responsibilities

- Bringing your dog to the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital (VMTH) for his/her scheduled colonoscopy procedure
- Covering the costs of standard medical tests (eg, colonoscopy, biopsy, etc) and care (hospitalization, surgery, medications) as indicated for your dog and agreed upon by you in consultation with your internal medicine clinician

Benefits

- The trial will cover the cost of the CT scan and any additional anesthesia time. The CT information may assist your doctor in making informed medical recommendations for the treatment of your dog’s disease.
- You will receive an additional $150 subsidy on your bill toward the cost of the colonoscopy procedure.
- We hope this study will lead to improved methods of diagnosis of large bowel disease or improved surgical planning for focal large bowel problems.