Background

- The cut off values previously used to diagnose hyperadrenocorticism, or Cushing’s disease, were first determined over 30 years ago. Since then, there have been significant advancements in laboratory equipment and techniques as well as the clinician’s ability to identify this disease as a differential diagnosis. The goal of this study is to re-evaluate the cut off values used to diagnose hyperadrenocorticism in dogs.

Participation Requirements

- Adult dogs suspected to have Cushing’s disease (either pituitary or adrenal dependent) prior to receiving any medical therapy

Procedures

- Day 1: We will collect a blood and urine sample for analysis, and assess blood pressure. You will need to collect two urine samples from your pet at home and complete the study questionnaire.
- Day 2: We will perform an ACTH stimulation test and an abdominal ultrasound.
- Day 3: We will perform an 8-hour low-dose dexamethasone suppression test which requires a 8-12 hour fast.

Owner Responsibilities

- Keeping all scheduled appointments
- Covering the cost of the treatment of hyperadrenocorticism, initial examination, initial laboratory tests, blood pressure, and any additional testing recommended by the clinician

Benefits

- The study will cover the cost of the abdominal ultrasound, one of the urine cortisol creatinine ratios, endogenous ACTH level, ACTH stimulation test, low dose dexamethasone suppression test, and cost associated with hospitalization during the day.
- Dogs suspected to having hyperadrenocorticism will assist in evaluation of cut off values used to make a diagnosis of hyperadrenocorticism.