Background

- The current gold standard imaging method for evaluation of rectal masses by colonoscopy.
- The purpose of this portion of the study is to evaluate two different novel minimally invasive approaches to pre-operative imaging and surgical planning.
- Traditional bowel preparation for a colonoscopy procedure (the current usual method of surgical planning for masses of the colon/rectum) requires a full cathartic in-hospital bowel preparation, which can be expensive and requires hospitalization. Therefore, the other portion of the study intends to assess two protocols for bowel preparation prior to imaging.

Participation Requirements

- Dogs diagnosed with rectal mass(es) with owners who have elected to proceed with further diagnostic imaging and surgical removal of these masses

Procedures

- An at-home bowel cleansing protocol, that involves a special diet and possibly a radiographic contrast agent and orally administered laxative, 2 days prior to the scheduled surgical procedure to remove your dog’s rectal mass
- A CT scan under anesthesia, followed by insertion of a rigid endoscope (while in the operating room) to evaluate the mass just prior to surgical removal
- If surgery is necessary, your dog will undergo the surgery as determined by the attending Soft Tissue Surgery clinician with your permission.

Owner Responsibilities

- Bringing your dog to any scheduled appointments
- Covering the standard costs of pre-operative bloodwork, additional diagnostic imaging (chest x-rays, abdominal ultrasound, etc), anesthesia, surgery, and hospitalization for your dog’s disease, as explained by your attending clinician

Benefits

- All costs associated with the study, including the bowel preparation protocol medications, CT scan, and rigid endoscopic exam will be paid by the study.
- Results from this study may lead to improved methods of diagnosis of large bowel disease and/or improved surgical planning for focal large bowel problems.