Background & Purpose
- Subvalvular aortic stenosis (SAS) is the second most common heart defect diagnosed in dogs, and the Bullmastiff breed is over-represented in incidence of SAS. Moderate and severely affected cases are at risk for developing severe cardiac complications, and have an average lifespan of 19 months. Furthermore, there is no surgical treatment available that results in an increased life expectancy for affected cases.
- The aim of this study is to identify genes/variants associated with SAS in Bullmastiffs that can be used to develop a genetic test.

Participation Requirements
- Bullmastiffs that have been diagnosed with SAS
- Parents and/or littermates of dogs with SAS

Procedures
- An echocardiogram performed by a cardiologist
- Collection and submission of 2-3ml of whole blood by the owner or a veterinarian

Owner Responsibilities
- Submission of the following items:
  - 2-3 ml of whole blood
  - A copy of the 3-generation pedigree (if available)
  - A copy of the veterinary report
  - Filled out enrollment form

Benefits
- Results from this study can be utilized to produce an SAS genetic test for Bullmastiff. A genetic test can be used to screen predispose Bullmastiffs and guide breeding practices to reduce disease prevalence in this breed.