Background & Purpose
- Sudden acquired retinal degeneration syndrome (SARDS) is a common cause of permanent blindness in dogs.
- Our goal is to identify better methods for diagnosing SARDS, predicting at-risk dogs, monitoring dogs with this disease, and eventually to aid in evaluation of treatments as they become available. We are also interested in developing better tools for differentiating SARDS from blinding diseases that affect the central nervous system.

Participation Requirements
- Dogs diagnosed with SARDS
- Dogs diagnosed with neurological disease causing blindness
- Dogs with healthy retinas

Procedures
- Routine ophthalmic examination
  - Dilation of the pupils to examine the back of the eyes
  - Staining of the eye with fluorescein to look for corneal ulcers
- Videotaping of the pupil’s response to colored lights
- Light-based ultrasound of the retina (OCT or optical coherence tomography)
- Digital photography of the eye (fundus photography)
- Electroretinogram (ERG) to measure retinal function

Owner Responsibilities
- Covering costs associated with initial diagnosis
- Bringing your dog to all scheduled appointments (up to 4 half-day sessions)

Benefits
- The study will cover up to 4 complete eye examinations and up to $200 towards any study-related complications.
- Results of this study will hopefully lead to better methods for diagnosis and monitoring of SARDS and more accurate ways of differentiating it from similar diseases.

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