Background & Purpose

- Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy (CED) is a devastating disease in dogs that can result in blindness and severe ocular pain from secondary complications. Several dog breeds, including Boston Terriers, are seen more commonly for CED in comparison to other breeds, which suggests that this disease has a genetic component. We aim to identify the region of the dog genome associated with CED in Boston Terriers in hopes of developing a genetic test for the disease.

Participation Requirements

- Boston Terriers with Corneal Endothelial Dystrophy
- Healthy Boston Terriers (over 7 years old)

Procedures

- Routine ophthalmic examination
- Blood collection for DNA analysis
- Non-invasive advanced corneal imaging with confocal microscopy and spectral domain-optical coherence tomography under sedation

Owner Responsibilities

- Cover costs due to any complications from sedation, blood sampling or examination (including corneal ulceration)
- Avoid giving any medications up to 48 hours prior to examination
- Avoid giving food in the morning to prepare for sedation

Benefits

- There is no cost to you for your participation in this study
- Your dog will receive a very thorough eye examination at no charge
- Results from this study will help us later identify the genes responsible for causing the disease.
- Once the gene(s) that predispose Boston Terriers to CED are identified, breeders will be able to select against the disease.

Principal Investigator

Dr. Sara Thomasy

Contact Information

Monica Motta
mjmotta@ucdavis.edu
www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/clinicaltrials/