Background
• Diseases affecting the spine, including congenital anomalies of the spine and intervertebral disc disease, are very common in French bulldogs and can cause debilitating pain, trouble walking and incontinence. Genetic mutations causing similar diseases have been identified in other breeds of dogs and we would like to compare them to the French Bulldogs in this study to help us identify specific gene(s) involved with congenital anomalies of the spine and intervertebral disc disease in French bulldogs.

Participation Requirements
• French Bulldogs 5 years or older

Procedures
• Physical, neurological and orthopedic examinations
• Ultrasound of the heart
• X-rays of the spine under light sedation
• Blood collection for DNA analysis

Owner Responsibilities
• We ask that you bring your dog in to the scheduled appointment and leave him/her at the VMTH for at least 3-4 hours.

Benefits
• There is no cost to you for your participation in this study.
• Your dog will receive a very thorough examinations at no charge.
• Results from this study will help us later identify the genes responsible for causing these diseases.
• Once the gene(s) that predispose French Bulldogs to these congenital spinal abnormalities are identified, breeders will be able to select against the disease.