



RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

Grant 02284-A: Lyme Disease in Dogs: Prevalence, Clinical Illness, and Prognosis

Principal Investigator: Dr. Jason Stull, VMD, PhD

Research Institution: Ohio State University

Grant Amount: \$14,148.00

Start Date: 7/1/2016

End Date: 6/30/2018

Progress Report: Mid-Year 1

Report Due: 12/31/2016

Report Received: 1/13/2017

(The content of this report is not confidential and may be used in communications with your organization.)

Original Project Description:

Lyme disease (or Borreliosis) is a bacterial disease of dogs and humans that is transmitted by tick bites. In people, Lyme is the most common tick-transmitted disease in the US, with over 25,000 cases in 2014. While most common in the northeastern coastal states and the upper Midwest, Lyme disease is moving into other regions of the U.S. and Canada. Dogs infected with Lyme disease rarely show signs of illness (typically lameness), but can be severe (e.g., kidney disease). Diagnosis, treatment and prevention of Lyme disease in dogs are complicated by limited research and conflicting professional guidance. Current practices may unnecessarily place dogs at risk for illness and negative outcomes.

The investigators will follow a large group of dogs from different regions of the U.S. and Canada. During this period the investigators will determine how often healthy dogs test positive for Lyme disease (meaning they have been bitten by an infected tick) and identify how often they later develop a Lyme-related illness. The risks and benefits of management strategies for Lyme-positive dogs and obstacles to effective tick prevention will be determined to help clarify unmet pet owner education needs. These findings are likely to extend to better understanding of canine and human Lyme disease, and improve health outcomes. Collectively, this work will allow us to identify, define and improve upon best practices for prevention and control of Lyme disease in areas with different Lyme risks, ultimately improving the health of dogs and people.



Publications:

None at this time.

Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

Consistent with the timeline provided in our proposal, to-date we have developed and begun pre-testing a dog owner questionnaire. The PI has had conversations with veterinarians at several clinics in Maine and Ohio. Several clinics have tentatively agreed to participate in the study beginning Spring 2017. The human subject's protocol has been started and estimated to be submitted within the next 2 weeks. This project is on track to begin enrolling dogs and owners this spring and to accomplish our stated objectives within the 2-year period.