

# CANINE CHAGAS DISEASE: CHARACTERIZING CARDIAC DISEASE AND DEVELOPING SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASYMPTOMATIC DOGS SEROPOSITIVE FOR *TRYPANOSOMA CRUZI*

<b>Title:</b>	<b>Canine Chagas Disease: Characterizing cardiac disease and developing screening recommendations for asymptomatic dogs seropositive for <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i></b>
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<b>Species:</b>	Canine
<b>Inclusion Criteria and General Background Information:</b>	<p>Dogs of any age that are clinically healthy without any other medical conditions and have a positive Chagas disease (<i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>) antigen test result within the past 6 months. Dogs cannot have received any prior medical treatment for Chagas disease. Dogs must be able to make several trips to the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital in College Station.</p> <p><b>Background:</b> The purpose of the study is to perform diagnostic tests to identify changes in the heart of apparently healthy dogs that test positive for Chagas disease in order to better describe the disease process and create screening recommendations. Enrollment will begin Summer of 2019.</p>
<b>Exclusion Criteria:</b>	<p>Dogs will not be eligible for enrollment if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• They do not have a positive antigen test within the 6 months prior to enrollment.</li><li>• They have ever received any type of treatment for Chagas disease (examples- benznidazole, amiodarone, itraconazole, nifurtimox).</li><li>• They have current clinical signs suggestive of any serious medical disease.</li><li>• They are too anxious/stressed to complete the evaluation.</li></ul>
<b>Owner Commitments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Owners must be able to make a trip to Texas A&amp;M to participate in the study at the time of screening for enrollment and again at 12 months and 24 months after enrollment.</li><li>• Owners must be able to answer questions regarding their dog's health in a brief phone call or email at 6 months and 18 months after enrollment.</li></ul>
<b>Financial Incentives:</b>	Enrolled patients will have tests performed as part of the study including blood work (complete blood count, biochemistry panel, heartworm test), ECG/Holter, and an echocardiogram (cardiac ultrasound) at no cost to the owner. A Holter monitor deposit fee is charged and refunded when the Holter is returned.