

Pug Myelopathy (Spinal Cord Disease) Project

at Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

At MSU CVM, Dr. Jon Patterson and related clinical faculty have combined their expertise to study spinal cord disease in Pugs, with a focus on constrictive myelopathy (CM), and the possibly related condition, spinal arachnoid diverticula (SAD). Neurologists and neurosurgeons from outside MSU are also collaborating with the MSU study. Some funding is still available to have your Pug seen at MSU. Pugs will signs of hind limb weakness and incoordination qualify for the study, and receive a CT scan and MRI of the spine at NO COST. Other fees are borne by the client.



Objectives of the study include: 1) determination of the prevalence of different causes of spinal cord disease (e.g., intervertebral disc disease [IVDD], CM, SAD, degenerative myelopathy [DM], neoplasia [cancer], trauma); 2) identification of unique clinical and diagnostic features of the various conditions leading to early or definitive diagnosis, and potential early treatment and improved prognosis; 3) determination of the pathogenesis (mechanisms) of CM and SAD; 4) determination of potential genetic markers for CM and SAD.

If your Pug is eligible for the study, he/she will receive an exam by a neurologist, and an MRI and CT scan. There are charges for administrative and lab fees of about \$260 per dog. Assuming he/she is a good candidate for brief anesthesia, he/she may be seen and imaged both in one day. To make an appointment call the small animal clinic at MSU 517-353-5420 and ask for an appointment with Neurology for the Pug Myelopathy study. Your Pug can be referred by your primary care veterinarian, a local neurologist, or you can contact MSU yourself. Gather any records already available and take them with you to MSU.

Tissues from deceased affected Pugs may be sent to the Michigan State University Pug Myelopathy Project for a full post mortem to advance critical research.

The project is in collaboration with the national Pug Dog Club of America (PDCA), Pug rescue groups, and through social media. Spinal conditions causing hind limb weakness and incoordination in Pugs are very common and widespread. An online OFA/PDCA Pug Health Survey http://www.offa.org/surveys/survey_pug.html reports rear limb ataxia as the 2nd most important concern in Pugs today.

Download **Ataxia Questionnaire** from our FB Page: Pug Dog Health – Rear Ataxia/Paralysis ([Ataxia Paralysis Questionnaire Form](#)).

Please alert Dr. Smiler you are interested in going to MSU and email her a copy of the completed form at smilerk@mindspring.com

For References and More Information Contact:

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