

Investigating the Regional Circulation of Antibiotic Resistance Genes

I would like to invite you to take part in my research study. This information sheet will provide you with details of why this research is being performed and what would be involved should you decide to participate.

What is the purpose of the study?

Naturally, bacteria are everywhere, in the environment, and on and within us and animals. Bacteria can be beneficial to us but can also cause illness. In recent decades there has been an increase in resistance to antibiotics, limiting the treatment options available for common bacterial infections and resulting in prolonged infections and even death. To tackle this, it is important to carry out research on bacteria to identify and understand resistance to aid in controlling and treating the infections they cause. This study aims to identify whether certain resistance genes may be found in dog faeces.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether to join the study. If you do decide to take part, I will ask you to sign a consent form. You are free to withdraw from the study at any time, without giving a reason.

What will taking part involve?

Involvement in the study simply means providing me with a sample of freshly-passed faeces from your dog and completing a consent form and simple questionnaire. The sample can be given to me in person or posted in the provided sample collection pack.

Are there any advantages to taking part in the study?

There are no immediate benefits to you or your dog from taking part in this study. However, the information that is got from this study will help towards our understanding of antimicrobial resistance and how to tackle it for both human and animal health.

Are there any disadvantages or risks involved?

No disadvantages or risks are expected as a result of your taking part in the study that are not outside of the normal risks associated with responsible dog ownership.

What will happen if I no longer want to take part?

You can withdraw from the study at any time. If you have already provided a sample, we can withdraw it from testing if you contact us within 24 hours of providing it. After this, if the sample has been subjected to microbiology testing the results from this may still be used but your information and questionnaire responses will be deleted.

What will happen to the results?

The results of the study will form part of my PhD thesis. They may also be published in relevant academic journals and presented at scientific conferences. All results will be anonymised, and your individual results will not be available to anyone but myself and my immediate research team. If you would like a summary of the results at the end of the study, you can indicate this on the consent form.

Will taking part be kept confidential?

All information which is collected about you and your dog as part of this study will be handled in confidence. Data will be stored in accordance with GDPR and the University of Bristol's Data Protection Guidelines with any identifying information stored separately to research data. All personal data will be destroyed at the end of the study. After the study ends the fully anonymised data will be stored on the University of Bristol's Research Data Storage Facility and made available to genuine researchers on request.

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is part of a PhD project funded by the *Medical Research Foundation's National PhD Training Programme in Antimicrobial Resistance Research*. It is organised by the PhD student, Jordan Sealey, at the University of Bristol, School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and supervised by Professor Matthew Avison, Professor of Molecular Bacteriology, School of Cellular and Molecular Medicine.

Who has reviewed the study?

The Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee at the University of Bristol has reviewed this study.

**If you have any questions about the study, please ask or get in touch via my contacts details below.
Thank you for your time!**

For more information (before, during or after the study) please contact Jordan Sealey-

Jordan.Sealey@bristol.ac.uk
School of Cellular & Molecular Medicine,
Office D54a, Biomedical Sciences Building,
University Walk, Clifton BS8 1TD

If you have any concerns related to your participation in this study please direct them to the Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Committee, tel 0117 331 7472 or email research-governance@bristol.ac.uk. This is an independent contact for research study participants.