

## Collection of Blood and Myocardial Tissue from BSH cats

This study aims to utilise **Genome-wide methods on DNA from feline blood** determine what genes and gene networks underlie hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). Additionally, we will use **RNA from blood and myocardial tissue** to describe the gene expression signature of the disease enabling identification of novel drug target and obtain information useful for breeding purposes to eradicate the disease.

To perform this study, we require **blood and myocardial samples** from **both HCM-affected** (case) and **non-HCM-affected** (controls) Individuals.

Please see below the requirements for an individual to qualify for this study. Ethical approval for this study is already in place.

If you have any questions please contact;

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### **Sample collection process;**

Blood samples: Either 1) we will provide the necessary consumables to your vet to facilitate collection. Or 2) if you are happy and willing to travel to the RVC we will perform an echo and collect blood here.

Myocardial samples: In the unfortunate circumstance that your cat is being euthanised, we will provide your vet with RNA Later for the myocardial tissue collection for our study and with Formalin to preserve the rest of the heart for diagnosis.

## Requirements to qualify for the study; **Cases and Controls Needed!**

### Controls (individuals that DID NOT have HCM);

- For Bloods; must be **over 9 years** of age.
- For myocardial tissue age is less important but need to be mature.
- It is likely that these individuals have some other condition **HOWEVER** to be classed as controls this **cannot be a cardiomyopathy**.
- For blood samples: HCM ruled out based on **echocardiography**.
- For myocardial samples: If no echo has been performed before euthanasia, we are able to confirm case/control post-mortem from a formalin-preserved heart.

### Cases (individuals that had HCM);

- For blood samples: Only requirement is **confirmation of HCM** by echocardiography.
- For myocardial samples: If no echo has been performed before euthanasia, we are able to confirm case/control post-mortem from a formalin-preserved heart.

**Principal Investigator: Dr Androniki Psifidi**

