



RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT SUMMARY

Grant 02723: Scientific and Clinical Assessment of Fecal Microbiota Transplant in Obese Dogs: SLIM Study

Principal Investigator: Jenessa Winston, DVM, PhD
Research Institution: The Ohio State University
Grant Amount: \$94,989
Start Date: 6/1/2020 **End Date:** 5/31/2022
Progress Report: End-Year 1
Report Due: 5/31/2021 **Report Received:** 5/28/2021

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Original Project Description:

Obesity is a growing epidemic in companion animals. Obesity results from a prolonged positive energy balance leading to excessive fat accumulation, which promotes dysregulation of metabolic, hormonal, and inflammatory responses. Ultimately these changes lead to physical impairment, comorbidities, and reduced quality of life. Evidence is mounting that the intestinal microbiota (collection of microorganisms that live in the intestines) contributes to obesity, and rational manipulation of this ecosystem may confer a health benefit. This study will provide a comprehensive scientific and clinical assessment of the efficacy of fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) as an adjunctive therapy for canine obesity management. The investigators hypothesize that FMT (the transfer of feces from a healthy, lean donor dog into an obese dog) will amplify weight loss in obese dogs compared to the use of standard dietary obesity management. A randomized, placebo controlled clinical trial in client-owned obese dogs consisting of three groups: diet alone, diet + FMT, diet + placebo will provide data on weight loss and characterize the intestinal microbiota and metabolic function. Success of this study will benefit obese dogs by providing a microbial intervention to augment current strategies for canine obesity management aimed at promoting weight loss, normalizing metabolic status, and improving quality of life.

Publications: None at this time.

Presentations: None at this time.



Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:

To date, we have screened 31 dogs for the SLIM study. Of these, 23 have met the inclusion criteria and were enrolled. Of these enrolled dogs, six dogs have completed at least 12 weeks of the 24-week clinical trial. We are averaging 1-2 dogs screening for the study per week. Therefore, we are currently on track to have all dogs enrolled by Fall 2021.

Our patients' owners are thrilled with how their pets are progressing in their weight loss goals. Our institution has been posting social media stories about our patients' weight loss journeys and this has helped to recruit new cases. Additionally, our local news station has recently highlighted the SLIM study (<https://www.10tv.com/article/sponsor-story/ohio-state-veterinary-medical-center-clinicians-studying-treatment-for-obesity-in-dogs/530-714beddd-946f-4709-8b12-c68235627a16>).