

Dogs Allergic to Vaccinations Needed for Study

Researchers at Purdue University hope to isolate the cause of allergic reactions to vaccinations in dogs.

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Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine is conducting a study to investigate the cause of allergic reactions in dogs after they have been vaccinated and researchers are seeking dogs to participate in the study.

Allergic reactions are the most common adverse side effects from canine vaccinations, according to the university. Typical reactions include swelling around the eyes and face, small swellings on the surface of the skin, generalized itching, and vomiting. Purdue's recent research has shown that small dogs in general, along with several specific breeds have a significantly greater risk of having a reaction.

Forty-two breeds were analyzed, and Dachshunds, Pugs, Boston Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, and Chihuahuas experienced the highest rate of adverse reactions. Those breeds, along with Boxers, Australian Terriers, and Kerry Blue Terriers are sought for the study. All dogs must have been vaccinated within three weeks to qualify for the study.

Researchers are particularly interested in dogs – and their relatives – who have had allergic reactions. Researchers will study antibodies in high-risk dogs who have had allergic reactions and compare those samples to dogs of the same breed who have not. Through the study, researchers hope to isolate the vaccine components responsible for the allergy.

To participate, veterinarians must collect serum from the dog. Pet owners can refer their veterinarians here for collection instructions. Researchers will mail veterinarians postage-paid mailers to send in the samples. Dog owners must sign a consent form in order for their dogs to participate. Samples will be collected through 2008.

The study is funded by the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation.