Using a New Technique to Shrink Tumors in Dogs

Background & Purpose
• When liver tumors in dogs cannot be removed with surgery, treatment options are limited or non-existent. In humans, one of the standard treatments for those cases is transarterial embolization (TAE), which eliminates the blood supply of the tumor and may decrease tumor size. Therefore, the objectives of this study are to 1) describe the procedure of TAE in a group of dogs with naturally-occurring liver cancer, and 2) evaluate the effect that liver TAE has on clinical signs and the size of the tumor.

Participation Requirements
• Dogs diagnosed with liver cancer that has been determined to be non-removable or in a location with great surgical risk

Procedures
• An abdominal ultrasound scan
• CT scan, PET scan and TAE while under anesthesia
• A second ultrasound scan, CT scan and PET scan approximately 4 weeks post-TAE
• Hospitalization for 1-2 days post treatment pending response to treatment
• Completion of questionnaires

Owner Responsibilities
• Keeping the scheduled appointment
• Completing several questionnaires
• Covering costs associated with the TAE procedure and any complications that may occur as part of that procedure

Benefits
• The study will cover costs associated with the ultrasounds, CT scans, PET scans and anesthesia.
• We hope that the data acquired in this study will allow us to advance the treatment of cancer in both pets and people.