Background
- Hiatal herniation (HH) and gastroesophageal reflux (GER) can lead to clinical signs including regurgitation, esophageal stricture formation, and aspiration pneumonia, which can all have significant detrimental effects on quality of life. The purpose of this study is to evaluate laparoscopic surgery for treatment of dogs with these conditions and assess how it affects the severity or clinical signs of GER and/or HH.

Participation Requirements
- Dogs with clinically significant and diagnosed gastroesophageal reflux (GER) and/or hiatal herniation (HH)
- To determine eligibility, dogs need a physical examination and barium esophagram to diagnose GER and/or HH.

Procedures
- Day 1: Imaging your dog using a fluoroscope (dynamic x-ray machine) after he/she swallows water and food boluses (barium esophagram)
- Day 2: Placement of an Endoflip catheter to inflate a very low pressure balloon within the lower esophagus while under anesthesia
- Day 60-90 (after surgery): Repeat of barium esophagram
- Owners will need to complete a brief questionnaire on Days 1 and 60-90.

Owner Responsibilities
- Keep all scheduled appointments.
- Complete the owner questionnaires

Benefits
- The study will pay for all of the diagnostic tests and procedures associated with the study, including the fluoroscopy and endoscopic studies, Endoflip measurements, and the examination fee for the second visit (at 60-90 days post-operatively).
- Results from this trial will hopefully allow us to better understand the presence or absence of hiatal herniation in your dog, which may help in the long-term management of this component of your dog’s clinical signs, and potentially that of other dogs with similar conditions in the future.