

# Planning to breed your broodbitch?

If she is 2-5 years old, this study may be for you.

## Does body condition affect fertility and reproductive performance in the bitch?

Our study aims to answer this question as we are striving to give objective and evidence-based recommendations to our clients, breeders and veterinarians. For this study, we are looking for medium to large breed bitches who are lean or overweight/obese to evaluate the effects of body condition on fertility, pregnancy, and whelping along with milk composition and neonatal health.

### Participants will be asked to participate in:

- Our routine breeding management program
- 9 separate visits throughout gestation and post-whelping (2-3 for standard of care visits, 6-7 for research collections)
- Fitness tracking with a provided FitBark 2 activity monitor (which is also fun!)
- Weekly activity and nutrition journal monitoring throughout breeding, gestation and post-whelping
- Detailed monitoring of the whelping
- A controlled weight loss program before rebreeding under our supervision with a clinical nutritionist (overweight participants only)

## Location

- All appointments will be at the **Veterinary Teaching Hospital of Virginia-Maryland CVM in Blacksburg, Virginia** or as **house calls**.

## Is your dog eligible?

- 2-5 years old
- Medium to large breed
- No current medical conditions
- Weight unchanged for **at least 6 months**
- **No** homemade/ raw/ fish additive diet
- Proven breeder or maiden with no familial history of infertility.

## Participants will receive:

- Full initial bloodwork and urinalysis
- One large bag of Purina Proplan Sport 30/20 (feeding not required for study)
- Pregnancy diagnosis ultrasounds
- Pre-Whelping Radiograph

If you would like to know more about the study, please either scan the adjacent QR code to email Dr. Sam McCarter and Dr. Orsolya Balogh at [whelping@vt.edu](mailto:whelping@vt.edu)

