

In order to assist researchers in preparing their Consent Forms, and to assist the committee in evaluating them, we ask that researchers use the following template. This template outlines the minimum information that must be included.

REMINDER – Provide the owner with a copy of the signed owner consent form.

CONSENT FORM FOR ANIMAL OWNERS

You have been invited to enter ***(insert Animal's Name or other identifier)*** in a research project entitled ***(insert title of research project here)***. Please read this form carefully, and feel free to ask questions you might have.

Researcher(s): Name(s), departmental and institutional affiliation(s), contact number(s).

Funding Source(s):

Purpose and Objective of the Study: State the purpose and major objectives of the study,

Knowledge Transfer: Indicate how and to whom the findings will be distributed, and describe how the data will be reported (i.e., in aggregate or summarized form). You may also wish to indicate how participants may find out about the results of the research project.

Potential Benefits: Describe any direct benefits to the participating animal, as well as any potential for benefit to the wider community, stressing that these benefits are not necessarily guaranteed. In cases where the objectives of the research project are purely scientific, such that immediate application of the research findings is not anticipated, this statement may be omitted.

Description of the Procedures: Describe the procedures, and give an estimate of the length of time these procedures will take. If the research will take place in a location other than the one where the participant is reading or being read the Consent Form, indicate where the research will take place.

Potential Risks and Discomforts: Describe any risks that are associated with the procedures described above and any steps that will be taken to minimize those risks. Where possible, quantify the risks/discomforts in percentages so that animal owners can make an informed decision about the risk to their animal(s). If there are no known risks, say so.

Financial Implications: ***Suggested wording*** There will be no cost to you for entering your animal(s) in this study. You will not be charged for any of the procedures performed solely for the study's purposes. All unrelated costs for diagnosis, management and treatment of your animal(s) are your responsibility. You will receive no reimbursement for entering your animal(s) in this study.

Confidentiality: Describe the procedures that will be used to safeguard the confidentiality and anonymity of responses, as well as any limitations on the degree to which confidentiality and anonymity can be guaranteed. ***Suggested wording:*** While absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, every

effort will be made to ensure that the information collected for this study is kept entirely confidential. Your name or that of your animal(s) will not be attached to any information nor mentioned in any study report, nor be made available to anyone except the research team. Results of this study are intended for publication in scientific journals and presentation at related conferences and workshops, but your identity or that of your animal(s) will not be revealed.

Note that if you plan to ask participants about activities that may be illegal or potentially incriminating to them, and it would be possible at any point to trace the identities of individual respondents, you must indicate that any information that is provided may be subpoenaed by a court of law.

Data Storage: (*Suggested wording*): All research materials will be stored in (name location) under lock-and-key for a period of (identify length of time – **5 years** post publication **minimum** as per the U of S Responsible Conduct of Research Policy, see: http://www.usask.ca/university_secretary/policies/research/8_25.php).

Voluntary Participation: *Include the following statement:* Your animal's participation is voluntary, and you may withdraw your animal(s) from the research project for any reason, at any time, without penalty of any sort. If you do not wish to participate, you do not have to provide any reason for your decision, nor will you lose the benefit of any veterinary care your animal(s) is receiving. If you withdraw your animal(s) from the research project any data collected about him or her during their enrollment in the study will be retained for analysis.

If the research project extends over a significant length of time, include a statement to the effect that the researcher will advise the participant of any new information that could have a bearing on their decision to participate, as well, participants should be informed about the process by which ongoing consent will be sought.

Questions: *Include the following statement:* If you have any questions concerning the research project, please feel free to ask at any point; you are also free to contact the researchers at the numbers provided if you have other questions. This research project has been approved on ethical grounds by the University of Saskatchewan Animal Research Ethics Board. Any questions regarding the ethical conduct of this research may be addressed to that committee through the Research Ethics Office (306-966-7928). Participants from outside of Saskatoon may call toll free 1-888-966-2975.

Consent to Participate: *Include the following statements:* Please read and initial the following statements to signify your agreement and sign below.

_____ I have read or have had the consent form read to me and I understand the consent form.

_____ I have had an opportunity to ask questions and my/our questions have been answered.

_____ I freely consent to entering my animal(s) in this study.

_____ I have been told that a signed and dated copy of this Consent Form will be given to me for my records.

_____ I am at least 18 years of age and am the legal owner of the animal(s) or am authorized to make decisions regarding this(these) animal(s) on the owner's behalf.

Signature of Owner or Agent

Date

Signature of Individual conducting the Consent Process

Date

Research Results: If you would like a copy of the research results from this study please include your contact information.

Email address: _____

Postal Address: _____

Postal Code: _____