The Biospecimen Repository

The Biospecimen Repository (BR), also known as the Tissue Bank, collects samples from patients that come to The Ohio State University Veterinary Medical Center (VMC) for treatment of a variety of different diseases.

These samples are critical in helping researchers to understand the genetics and biology of such conditions as cancer and heart disease in veterinary patients. Similar banking efforts in human medicine have been instrumental in advancing the diagnosis and treatment of many conditions, including lung cancer and rheumatoid arthritis.

The availability of tissue specimens through the BR has impacted veterinary medicine through the identification of genes critical in the spread of mast cell cancer. Additionally, the BR is participating in a large NIH funded grant to develop new therapies for sarcomas in dogs and children, a collaborative effort between the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Medicine, and Nationwide Children’s Hospital.

For more information, contact Dr. Holly Borghese, Biospecimen Repository Coordinator, at 614-292-7954 or at borghese.19@osu.edu
What are clinical trials?

Clinical trials are studies in which a new therapy, diagnostic test, or medical device are evaluated in an effort to improve patient care and advance medical knowledge. Clinical trials adhere to a standard called Good Clinical Practice that ensures all data is accurate and patients are provided the highest level of care.

How do I enroll my pet in a clinical trial at Ohio State?

Please visit our website with the list of our current clinical trials
http://vet.osu.edu/vmc/cto/clinical-trials
If you believe that your pet may be eligible to enter a study, please contact us directly or have your veterinarian contact us for more information.

How does the Clinical Trials Office (CTO) at Ohio State work?

The CTO provides assistance in all aspects of a clinical trial including the design, execution and final evaluation of studies. Both veterinarians and registered veterinary technicians in the CTO work closely with faculty, staff, residents and interns at the Veterinary Medical Center, and participating veterinary clinics, to oversee clinical trials and ensure the highest standards of patient care.

The CTO was established in 2007 and since that time it has grown to oversee approximately 20-25 clinical trials each year. These studies have resulted in the development of new treatments for cancer (lymphoma, nasal cancer), heart disease, and arthritis.

What are the benefits of participating in a clinical trial?

In many clinical trials, part or all of the costs associated with the diagnosis and treatment are covered. Many studies also provide a financial credit at the Veterinary Medical Center for future treatments once the trial is complete.

Beyond the financial benefits associated with enrollment in a clinical trial, such studies may provide veterinary patients with advanced state-of-the-art care that is often unavailable outside of the study.

The CTO has established and maintained a network of regional specialists and veterinarians to assist with patient enrollment, through newsletters and periodic updates. The CTO has partnered with the Ohio State’s Comprehensive Cancer Center – James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute and Center for Clinical and Translational Sciences to provide a comprehensive approach that improves animal and human health.