

Overview of Biopsy Procedures

For superficial masses such as skin lumps, enlarged lymph nodes, and easily accessible internal tumors:

- A fine needle aspirate (FNA) is performed to evaluate malignancy.
- **If FNA results are benign** or if FNA is declined, it is up to the owner and veterinarian to decide if the lump will be biopsied or monitored. If submitted, a biopsy will be sent through the usual clinic protocol and no study involvement is needed. The veterinarian will share the biopsy results with Morris Animal Foundation.
- **If FNA supports a strong suspicion of malignancy**, the veterinarian may use the study biopsy kit provided in odd-year annual kit shipments or may contact the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS to review their findings and request a biopsy kit.

For internal masses such as lesions in the spleen, liver, bone or other:

- Preliminary diagnostics such as blood work, X-rays, and/or ultrasound are performed to evaluate the patient and form a differential diagnosis list.
- **If diagnostics do not support malignancy** or are declined, it is up to the owner and veterinarian to decide if the mass will be biopsied or monitored. If submitted, a biopsy will be sent through the usual clinic protocol and no study involvement is needed. The veterinarian will share the biopsy results with the study team.
- **If there is a strong suspicion of malignancy**, the veterinarian may use the study biopsy kit provided in odd-year annual kit shipments or may contact the study team at 855.4GR.DOGS to review their findings and request a biopsy kit.

Veterinarians should use the **Biopsy Decision Tree** to help them decide whether or not the use of a study biopsy kit is appropriate. It can be found on the reverse of this document and in the Veterinarian Resources menu at www.morrisanimalfoundation.org. From the homepage, click on the GRLS icon in the upper left corner, and scroll down to log in. Alternatively, if you have bookmarked the study log in page, your bookmark will still work.

When a study biopsy kit is used:

- A sample of the tumor is submitted for immediate histopathology. Samples of the tumor and healthy tissue adjacent to the tumor are submitted for long-term storage at a biorepository.
- A full set of clinical pathology samples, similar to the annual study exam, are submitted. This includes blood, urine, feces, hair and nail samples. This does not replace the dog's annual study exam sample submission.
- Results of the clinical pathology tests and histopathology (biopsy) will be uploaded to the registered study veterinarian's home page within 3-5 business days. It is the study veterinarian's responsibility to review these findings with the owner.
- For all malignancies, the study veterinarian will complete an online Additional Veterinary Visit questionnaire to summarize the event.

The appropriate treatment plan is always determined by the owner and attending veterinarian. While medications will be recorded in the annual study questionnaire, Morris Animal Foundation is not otherwise monitoring treatment.