

## Dog anxiety testing

Once you have completed the online questionnaire, your dog may be eligible for anxiety testing. The entire dog testing procedure at the University of Melbourne should take about 90 minutes of your time. You will also be reimbursed a small sum for travel expenses. You will initially meet with Dr Wormald who will answer any questions you may have. You will need to sign a consent form and then you can sit in a waiting room while your dog is tested. The tests that will be performed on your dog are described below.

### Empty room test—10 minutes



In this test, your dog will be allowed to roam freely around an empty room and the behaviour will be recorded by video cameras.

### Noise response test—5 minutes



In this test, your dog will be played a series of noises and we will measure the behavioural response. You can hear the noises before consenting.

### Floor sensitivity test—5 minutes



In this test, your dog will be placed in a room with two different floor surfaces to choose from. Both are comfortable, but one will feel unusual to your dog.

All research in this project has been approved by the human and animal ethics committees of The University of Melbourne. For further information please contact Dr Wormald.

### University of Melbourne

Dr Dennis Wormald  
250 Princes Highway  
Werribee, 3030

Phone: 03-9731-2015  
E-mail: [wormaldd@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wormaldd@unimelb.edu.au)

# DOG ANXIETY STUDY



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MELBOURNE**

Call for participants

2014 / 2015



**Anxiety** in dogs is an important topic which requires further research as we still know very little about it. Anxiety is believed to predispose to a range of behaviour problems in dogs such as:

- Separation anxiety
- Noise phobias
- Inter-dog aggression
- Impulse control aggression
- Fear aggression

## Dog requirements

Dogs enrolled in this study **MUST** meet the following requirements:

- Aged 18 months to 8 years
- Desexed
- Healthy (and not on any medication)
- Be within the “gun dog”, “companion dog” or “terrier dog” breed group (mixed breeds are ok too)
- Have multiple behaviour problems  
or have no behaviour problems at all.

## Behaviour questionnaire

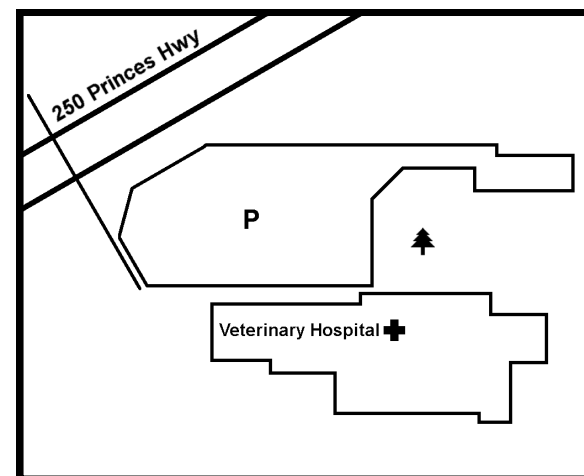
Before starting the study, you will need to fill out a behaviour questionnaire.

To get a copy, email Dr Wormald with your details. He will provide you with a link to a website where you can fill out the questionnaire online. At this stage you can receive feedback on how your dog compares with other dogs. The results of the test will determine if your dog is suitable for the study. By completing the questionnaire you are consenting to be involved in this study. If your dog is not suitable for the study then your

information and response will not be used in this study and will be deleted.

## Anxiety test results

If your dog is selected for anxiety testing, then you can access their test results once completed, if you wish. This may help you to understand why your dog has behaviour problems. Alternatively, if your dog does not have behaviour problems, a low anxiety score may explain why he/she is so well behaved! All information you supply and all test results will be kept confidential.



Dr Dennis Wormald  
The University of Melbourne

Phone: 03-9731-2015  
E-mail: wormaldd@unimelb.edu.au