

Consent Form: Use of data, samples in retrospective studies

For any veterinary practice that carries out clinical research, the consent for retrospective use of data etc. should be contained within the usual consent form for treatment. It is good practice that clients can opt-in to this use, by initialling a box to indicate agreement or selecting yes or no. If relying on previously obtained consent, it is the researcher's responsibility to check the adequacy of the consent for each participating practice. We have included clinical audit, even though there is no requirement to obtain consent for this, as it may be useful if any publications result from an audit.

A typical statement could be as follows:

This practice regularly carries out clinical veterinary research and quality improvement (clinical audit of our own practice) that increases knowledge of veterinary diseases and conditions and improves the care that we provide to our patients and to our clients. We therefore ask for your consent to use anonymised data (no personal details will be used or shared) for your animal(s) for research and audit purposes, and to share these with other researchers.

In addition, we would like to retain images (such as X-rays, ultrasound), biochemical analyses, and unused samples such as blood and tissue samples, which would normally be disposed of as clinical waste, for future research and audit purposes. These may be shared with other researchers, but details of your animal will only be referred to by a unique identification number and your personal details will not be shared.

I agree that my animal's clinical data (case records) can be used for research/audit purposes

Yes/No

I agree that my animal's clinical data (case records) can be shared with other researchers who may work in other veterinary practices or research centres

Yes/No

I agree that my animal's images (e.g., photographs, videos, X-rays) and any unused samples can be used for research/audit purposes

Yes/No

I agree that my animal's images and leftover samples can be shared with other researchers, including those who work outside this practice

Yes/No

If there is any possibility that the client will need to be contacted for follow-up, this should also



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be stated on the consent form.

A suitable statement would be:

If the researchers or auditors require more information about my animal(s), such as how they are doing since their treatment, I am happy to be contacted by email/telephone/letter (delete as required)

Yes/No

If you agree to this, please provide your preferred method of contact. We will only contact you using this permission within _ * years of you providing this consent, after which we would need to seek your consent again. (* to be completed by researcher)

Email/telephone/letter _____