

Embark Research Proposal Guidelines

Thank you for your interest in contributing to our research! Executing a research project is most commonly done in collaboration with a breed club or organization. If you are interested in partnering with a breed club or organization, please reach out to breeders@embarkvet.com.

Research projects can also be done with a more informal group of individuals (e.g. Facebook group, breeders that work closely together) led by a key individual. These projects require a **large sample size and purchased Embark kits**. A typical workflow for this type of project would be as follows:

- The key individual submits a proposal detailing the nature of the project, the anticipated number of samples and an expected timeline of sample submission
- The key individual leads the effort to collect funds and place bulk orders.
- The key individual distributes the swabs to other breeders. Each dog that is tested as part of the group will receive full Embark for Breeders test results.
- The key individual collects and organizes phenotypic data including pedigrees. This information must be delivered to Embark before the research can commence.

FAQ:

What about intra-project confidentiality? All samples submitted to Embark are subject to our [privacy policy](#). However, we may be able to accommodate additional privacy arrangements at the request of the breed group. For example, the organizer can register all of the swabs and give shared access to each owner/breeder or, each owner/breeder can register each swab individually.

How many samples are required? For most health-related studies, we ask for 100 dogs to start. For health concerns, we need affected dogs (30-50), their normal littermates, their sire/dam, and their grandsires/dams for the best chance at discovery. It is also best if samples can be collected from multiple breeding lines. For deceased dogs, we can discuss non-routine sample submission. For typical trait and behavior studies, we also ask for 100 dogs to start. We need dogs with the phenotype of interest (50) and an additional cohort of age- and sex-matched control dogs. All dogs enrolled in the study should be unrelated by at least three generations for the best potential for discovery. Depending on the study, there may be some additional inclusion or exclusion criteria.

When will you make a discovery? Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the desired research outcome or exact study duration. While the “pay research forward” model optimizes the chance for a genetic discovery in minimal time, scientific research does not always go as planned. We do not have a standardized timeline for research project progression. We are, however, happy to provide you with regular updates and our trademark excellent customer support and counseling as we embark on this research endeavor together