What will I receive for my pet’s participation?

A fecal culture for *Salmonella* will be performed at no charge and the results of the culture will be reported to your veterinarian.

What do I need to do to have my pet participate?

If you are interested in having your pet participate in the study, you will need to complete a questionnaire about your pet’s diet, health status, and living environment. In addition, you will need to sign a consent form. All information will be kept confidential.

If your pet is positive for *Salmonella*, you will be contacted by your veterinarian. In addition, you may be contacted for more information to aid in determining the source of the *Salmonella*.

We appreciate the participation by you and your pet.

For additional information:

http://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/types/petfood/

http://www.fda.gov/ForConsumers/ConsumerUpdates/ucm048182.htm

Vet-LRN Cooperative Laboratory Agreement: Salmonella Project: Occurrence of *Salmonella* in Dogs and Cats

Veterinary Laboratory Response Network (Vet-LRN), run by FDA’s Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM), conducts and coordinates veterinary diagnostic investigations involving animal food or drug related illnesses. Vet-LRN member laboratories evaluate diagnostic samples from livestock and companion animals in suspect cases of exposure to contaminated foods or drugs, helping to protect human and animal health.

http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ScienceResearch/ucm247334.htm
What are *Salmonella*?

*Salmonella* are bacteria that cause an infection called *salmonellosis* (sal-mohn-el-OH-sis).

Most people infected with *Salmonella* develop diarrhea, fever, and stomach pain 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most individuals recover without treatment. Some individuals may have no signs or symptoms of infection.

Can dogs or cats become infected with *Salmonella*?

Yes, dogs and cats can get salmonellosis. They can also carry *Salmonella* without getting sick. Pets that become ill may stop eating and may develop diarrhea, fever, abdominal pain, and vomiting. Some cats do not have diarrhea, but have decreased appetite and fever. Most ill pets recover completely.

How do people and pets get infected with *Salmonella*?

*Salmonella* live in the intestinal tracts of people and animals, including birds. *Salmonella* usually are transmitted to people or animals when they eat contaminated food. *Salmonella* are also transmitted when contaminated objects are put into the mouth.

*Salmonella* occasionally can be found in pet foods and treats and can cause infections in dogs, cats, and people. Therefore, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has stepped up its efforts to minimize the incidence of foodborne illness associated with pet foods and treats.

How many dogs and cats are infected with *Salmonella*?

The frequency with which pet dogs and cats are infected by *Salmonella* with or without signs of illness is not known. Therefore, the purpose of the current study is to help the FDA determine the occurrence of *Salmonella* in dogs and cats.

How will the study be performed?

The goal of the study is to collect fecal samples from 100 dogs and cats without signs of salmonellosis and to collect fecal samples from 100 dogs and cats that have signs of potential salmonellosis.

What will be needed from my pet to participate?

All that is needed from your dog or cat is a fresh fecal sample.