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**NEW TEST OFFERS EARLY DIAGNOSIS FOR DOGS WITH LYMPHOMA:
MORRIS ANIMAL FOUNDATION PROVIDED FUNDING**

ENGLEWOOD/CO – Nearly 50 percent of natural deaths in older cats and dogs are attributed to cancer. A new early detection test for lymphoma, the second most common cancer in dogs, is helping veterinarians and pet owners make important treatment decisions for dogs diagnosed with this type of cancer.

Funded by Morris Animal Foundation, a scientist at Colorado State University (CSU) has developed this highly successful test that can detect lymphoma in dogs, even when clinical signs are not yet apparent.

Lymphoma is one of the most treatable cancers, but it often begins with nonspecific symptoms like fatigue and lack of appetite. An early, accurate lymphoma diagnosis can save owners the unnecessary expense of extensive diagnostic testing and also helps owners and veterinarians make better treatment decisions. The test developed through this study helps to identify previously difficult to diagnose cases.

“Our test helps to distinguish between a big lymph node due to infectious disease and one that’s caused by a tumor,” says Dr. Anne Avery, lead investigator on the CSU study.

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**Cancer Test
2-2-2-2**

Thanks to this study, Colorado State University now houses the only lab in the country that performs this test. Every year, the university receives more than 1,000 canine blood and tissue samples from around the world for testing.

Better lymphoma testing for dogs is just the beginning. Based on the success of this study, Morris Animal Foundation has given Dr. Avery funding through another grant to develop a similar test for diagnosing lymphoma in cats. For fiscal year 2005, the Foundation has committed nearly \$800,000 for cancer studies in dogs and cats.

Morris Animal Foundation is a 57-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring a healthier tomorrow for companion animals and wildlife. Since its inception, the Foundation has funded more than 1,150 humane animal health studies with funds exceeding \$36 million. Support for the Foundation comes from pet owners, animal lovers, veterinarians and others dedicated to improving animal health. One hundred percent of all annual, unrestricted contributions support animal health studies, not administration or the cost of fund raising. For more information, call (800) 243-2345, or visit www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org.

Editor's Note: Interviews with Dr. Avery or with Morris Animal Foundation staff are possible.