

University of Maine

Canid Trapper Sample Consent

Project Title: *Epidemiology of Echinococcus spp. in Maine Canids*

Principal Investigator: Dr. Pauline Kamath, School of Food and Agriculture, University of Maine

Co-Investigator: Dr. Tegwin Taylor, NSF/UMaine One Health and the Environment trainee, University of Maine

Collaborator: Shevenell Webb, Furbearer Biologist, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Purpose of the Study: We want to gain a better understanding of the zoonotic (able to spread from animals to people) tapeworm *Echinococcus* in wild canids in Maine. We are interested in knowing which species of the parasite are present, which canids are harboring the parasite, and where the parasite is located in Maine.

Purpose of the Form:

You are being asked to submit canid fecal samples for a research project. This consent form gives you the information you will need to help you decide whether to participate. Please read this form carefully. You may ask any questions about the research, the possible risks and benefits, rights as a volunteer participant, and anything else that is not clear. When all of your questions have been answered, you can decide if you want to submit samples for this study.

What will happen in the study? You will collect feces/poop samples from coyotes, gray foxes and red foxes that you trap this fall. You will save them in individual bags or containers and freeze them until submission. We will then test these samples in the laboratory to see if *Echinococcus* is present. You may also submit fecal samples from your own dogs, and we will test these samples as well.

Risks of the study: Other than the risks associated with your regular trapping activities, there are no additional risks to you or your dog.

Benefits of the study: The information from this study will help provide a better understanding of *Echinococcus* in Maine, and it will help animal, public, and wildlife health authorities gain insight into the epidemiology of this organism for future planning purposes.

Is there compensation for participating? Participants will be entered in a drawing for a \$100 gift card.

Are there any costs to participating? Other than the costs associated with your normal trapping activities, there are no additional costs to participate.

Your decision to participate, not participate, or withdraw from the study will not affect your relationship with the University of Maine. Your signature indicates that this research study has been explained to you, that your questions have been answered, and that you agree to submit canid samples for the study.

Signature of Maine trapper _____