

**Information about our clinical case based research
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Further Information on Clinical Case Based Research

Name of Academic Researchers associated with the Clinic: Prof D.S Mills / Ms L Hewison

Contact Details of the Researcher(s) are given at the end.

We have invited you to take part in our research. Joining our research is entirely up to you. Before you decide, we would like you to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve for you. One of our team can go through this information sheet with you, to help you decide whether or not you would like to take part and answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to talk to others about our research if you wish.

What is the purpose of clinical case research?

Case reports are commonly used for describing new or novel clinical material or observation. These cases are described anonymously but with the support and consent of owners. As a leading clinic and thought leader in the field of clinical animal behaviour we are keen to share our experience with the wider professional community.

The main ethical concern is protecting the confidentiality of clients through ensuring anonymisation of all material used in any reporting.

Through your consent to the use of your case material in research, you are giving us permission to write up or include interesting aspects of the case in a range of forms in order to advance our understanding of some aspect of clinical animal behaviour. Our general goal is to share information and raise awareness of clinically valuable lessons relating to veterinary behaviour practice. Articles may be about a single animal or group of animals sharing some common characteristic (case series), possibly in comparison to some sort of control group, that does not have these features. Of particular interest are cases that present a diagnostic, ethical or management challenge, or that highlight aspects of behaviour and physiology that are deemed of particular educational value. Cases may also be aimed at provoking discussion around aspects of differential diagnosis, decision making, management or current clinical recommendations. All reporting is anonymous.

Why am I being invited?

You are being invited to take part because the animal behaviour clinic is a facility of the University of Lincoln that is committed to the education of others and you have expressed an interest in your case being used for teaching and/or research purposes. All clients are invited to volunteer their cases for this purpose, and we have not selected you because of any particular feature of the case.

Do I have to take part?

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part you can keep this information sheet and you will be asked to give your consent on the clinical history form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason. This would not affect your legal rights.

What will happen to me if I take part?

There will be no difference to the professional service that you receive as a result of agreeing to participation in research. The only additional commitment from you may be that you are contacted by a member of the clinical team after the normal follow up period for additional information, such as how your pet is now.

All teaching cases are video recorded as a matter of routine, and this recording may be used to extract further anonymised information for the purposes of our research. You will be asked to sign a separate form to permit video recording. Our students sign a form to acknowledge that all clinical material is shared with them in confidence.

Expenses and payments

By agreeing to allow your case to be used for teaching a research purposes, you will be receiving a discount on the standard consultation fee, in line with that indicated on the history form, which you will also be asked to sign.

What are the possible disadvantages and risks of taking part?

As all data are anonymised, we do not foresee any risks with your participation. There is a small chance that a student may recognise your case, if they are known to you, but they are trained to respect client confidentiality and have signed an agreement to this effect.

What are the possible benefits of taking part?

While there may be no direct benefit to yourself from agreeing to take part, you will be helping us to advance our knowledge of animal behaviour problems if we choose to write up any aspect of your case for the scientific literature.

Will my taking part in the study be kept confidential?

Your confidentiality is very important to us and your name will not be used in any publication, and we do not anticipate any material being used for research purposes in which you are personally identifiable. In the unlikely event that we do wish to capture such detail for research purposes, then we will contact you again at a later date to ask for your further permission for this. You have the right to refuse without this impacting on your initial decision or the discount you received on the consultation fee.

We will follow ethical and legal practice and all information about you will be handled in confidence.

Although what you say in the consultation is confidential, should you disclose anything to us which we feel puts you or anyone else at any risk, we may feel it necessary to report this to the appropriate persons.

Privacy notice

The University of Lincoln is the lead organisation for this study and will be the data controller for this work. This means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The university's Research Participant Privacy Notice <https://ethics.lincoln.ac.uk/research-privacy-notice/> will explain how we will be using information from you in order to undertake this study.

We will keep identifiable information (e.g. contact details) about you for up to 10 years after the consultation and follow up has finished. This information may be used in relation to further projects – you will be asked to provide your consent if this is the case.

What will happen if I don't want to carry on with the study?

Your participation is voluntary and you are free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason, and without your legal rights being affected. If you withdraw from the study, we may keep the data collected that we have already obtained in accordance with our Research Participant Privacy Notice. To safeguard your rights, we will delete all personal details/use the minimum personally identifiable information possible in our research.

Where will my data be stored?

The data obtained from you will be stored securely on the university OneDrive in a password protected file. Only the clinical staff, students and associates will have access to it. The anonymous data from this study *may* be put in an Open Access repository. If so, any personal data (e.g. contact details) will be removed.

What will happen to the results of the research study?

Data will be treated confidentially and any publication resulting from this study will report only data that does not identify individual participants (unless you have agreed to be identified).

Who is organising and funding the research?

This research is organised by the University of Lincoln and is not sponsored by any external body.

Who has reviewed the study?

All research conducted by the University of Lincoln is looked at by an independent group of people, called a Research Ethics Committee, to protect your interests.

What if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should ask to speak to the Professor Mills, who will do his best to answer your questions. His contact details are given at the end of this information sheet. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally, you can do this by contacting ethics@lincoln.ac.uk.

If you feel that we have let you down in relation to your information rights then please contact the Information Compliance team by email on compliance@lincoln.ac.uk or by post at Information Compliance, Secretariat, University of Lincoln, Brayford Pool, Lincoln, LN6 7TS.

You can also make complaints directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). The ICO is the independent authority upholding information rights for the UK. Their website is ico.org.uk and their telephone helpline number is 0303 123 1113.

Further information and contact details

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