

## **Energy expenditure in dogs differing in tendency to obesity**

**Principal Supervisor: Prof Phil Hynd**

Email: [Philip.hynd@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:Philip.hynd@adelaide.edu.au)

Phone: 8303 7871

Co-Supervisor: Dr Susan Hazel

There are large differences between animals (including humans) in their intake and metabolism of energy. Dogs are particularly variable in their appetite, voluntary intake and propensity to obesity (eg greyhounds vs Labradors). We have recently (in an Honour's project) made the interesting finding that dogs with a tendency to obesity (Labs, retrievers) have lower core body temperatures (and possibly more variable temperatures) than those breeds less prone to obesity (Greyhounds). This project will explore this finding further using larger numbers of dogs and more detailed analysis of diet, condition scores, activity levels.

### **Techniques:**

- Dog handling, use of temperature loggers
- Interaction with owners and communication of the science behind the project
- Statistical analysis of complex data sets to define patterns of response variables
- This project may attract funding from the Cat and Dog Management Board