What is it and why is it important?

About Histiocytic Sarcoma
- Histio: Tissue
- Cytic: Cells
- Sarco: Flesh
- A type of cancer affecting immune cells in the body
- A genetic disease
- Can be localized and spread through the entire body
- Can affect skin, spleen, liver, lymph nodes
- Currently no effective treatment

About Bernese Mountain Dogs
- 25% of the BMDa population is affected by this cancer
- They are ranked 22nd most popular dogs in the US
- Median age onset: 6.5-7 years old
- Most don’t live more 3 months after being diagnosed
- We can use information from these dogs as a model of research to find a cure

What are we doing as veterinary scientists?
- Search for the main genes responsible for it so we can identify dogs that may get the cancer early and also breed away from the disease
- Search for effective drugs to treat the cancer