



YOUR WINN IMPACT

NINE NEW GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Thanks to donors like you, funding for nine new feline health grants was recently announced.

Five grants have been funded in partnership with the George Sydney and Phyllis Redman Miller Trust for 2017. The four additional grants have been funded thanks to the generosity of cat lovers throughout the world who support Winn's mission.

Since 1968 Winn Feline Foundation and its donors have funded more than \$6 million in feline health research, benefiting cats worldwide.



Mapping heart fibrosis in cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) using cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI); MTW17-009

Grant Sponsor: Anonymous

- Ryan Fries, DVM, DACVIM, Jonathan Stack, DVM; University of Illinois; \$33,850

Fibrous tissue in the heart (measured by MRI) is correlated with worse outcomes in humans with heart disease. Now that MRI is commonly available in veterinary medicine, this study looks at the correlation of heart fibrosis in cats with heart disease. This non-invasive procedure will aid in determining treatment as well as prognosis for cats with heart disease such as HCM.

Development of cat genetic resources for standardized genetic testing; MTW17-014

Grant Sponsor: Wisdom Health

- Leslie Lyons, PhD; University of Missouri; \$11,740

While genetic testing for cats is now commonplace, most labs lack the standards and expertise to properly interpret their results. The goals of this grant are to provide DNA controls for all traits and diseases to the testing laboratories and to provide a standardized set of reports that has the needed information to provide consistent and accurate results.

Developing a safe and effective combined anticoronaviral therapy (CACT) for cats with FIP; MTW17-020; Bria Fund

- Brian Murphy, DVM, DACVP, Niels Pedersen, DVM, PhD; University of California-Davis; \$20,500

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a common and deadly disease of cats with previously no effective treatment. This study uses compounds developed for antiviral therapy in humans to treat this disease, with promising early results. Combination anticoronaviral therapy, used successfully in humans, will be evaluated for enhanced treatment of this otherwise fatal disease.

Generating an attenuated feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) vaccine by creating a protective immune response; MTW17-022; Bria Fund

- Gary Whittaker, PhD; Cornell University, Susan Baker, PhD; Loyola University-Chicago; \$35,000
Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a common and deadly disease of cats. Previous attempts at developing a vaccine were ineffective and increased the likelihood of the disease. New information shows that mutation of a specific gene in the virus can protect against this infection without causing disease. This study attempts to develop a new live-attenuated vaccine for FIP.

Miller Trust Grants

Investigating appropriate dosing for gabapentin sedation in cats with and without chronic kidney disease; MT17-002

- Jessica Quimby, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, The Ohio State University; Karen Van Haaften, DVM, University of California-Davis; \$32,349
A mild sedative, gabapentin, is often used to aid in transporting cats to their veterinarians. This study looks at the appropriate dose of this sedative in cats with kidney disease who may have trouble eliminating this medication, as humans with kidney disease do. This information will help avoid overdosing these patients.

Using biomarkers of aerodigestive disorders involving reflux for diagnosis of reflux in cats; MT17-006

- Megan Grobman, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, Carol Reiner, DVM, PhD, DACVIM; University of Missouri; \$21,164
Reflux is a common cause of respiratory symptoms in humans. This study evaluates the incidence of reflux in cats. This will lead to a better understanding and treatment of respiratory disease in cats. Results may also increase the understanding of medications that block reflux in many other feline diseases.

Mesenchymal stem cell therapy for cats with inflammatory bowel disease; MT17-007

- Craig Webb, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, Tracy Webb, DVM, PhD; Colorado State University; \$34,863
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) is a common cause of diarrhea and vomiting in cats. Preliminary data suggests stem cell therapy from fat tissue is an effective and safe treatment for this disease. This study will further evaluate the safety and efficacy of this alternative to corticosteroid treatment for IBD.

Early intervention of mesenchymal stem cell therapy for cats with chronic gingivostomatitis; MT17-008

- Boaz Arzi, DVM, PhD, DADC, Dori Borjesson, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Frank Verstraete, Professor; University of California-Davis. \$28,008
Previous studies have shown the efficacy of stem cells from a cat's own fat tissue in chronic non-responsive stomatitis, a severe inflammation of the mouth. This study looks at the efficacy of this therapy as a primary treatment for this painful and otherwise poorly responsive common disease of cats, prior to full mouth tooth extractions.

Using novel, non-invasive measures of chronic stress in cats to determine levels of stress hormone in the hair and nails of cats; MT17-017

- Elena Contreras, DVM, MS, Michael Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM; Colorado State University; \$11,484
Chronic stress plays a role in many diseases, but has been difficult to measure. This study proposes a novel way to measure stress by evaluating the amount of the stress hormone, cortisol, in hair and nails, which accumulates over a much longer period of time than blood levels. (New Feline Investigator Grant Award, in memory of Fred Jacobberger)