



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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RINGWORM TESTING IN CATS BY PCR

PROJECT STUDY:

Detection of dermatophytosis in cats by PCR

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Final report summary, W13-012

Ringworm is a condition affecting cats that is caused by a fungal infection. Humans and pets can acquire this organism from infected cats. The current method of testing may take weeks to provide a definitive answer.

We have developed an alternative test. This involves sampling cats by stroking a toothbrush or gauze through their coats. DNA from the sample is tested to detect the fungal pathogen. We have identified a unique gene and developed a test which is accurate but lacks the desired level of sensitivity (the ability of the test to correctly identify the condition).

Future work will involve attempting to make the test more sensitive (a negative test result would definitely rule out ringworm) with the goal of developing a new ringworm test that can be used to detect infected cats in shelters and households and to monitor treatment.

Publications:

Development of a qPCR assay for the detection of dermatophytosis in cats. S.A. Kania, L.A. Frank and K. Moriello. Manuscript in preparation.

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The Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit organization [501(c)(3)] established by The Cat Fancier's Association.
Member Combined Federal Campaign #10321