



# YOUR WINN IMPACT

## 11 NEW GRANTS ANNOUNCED

Thanks to donors like you, funding for 11 new feline health grants was recently announced.

These grants represent more than \$230,000 of groundbreaking funding that will improve our understanding of the diseases and health conditions that impact cats. Additionally, nearly \$74,000 in shelter medicine grants were approved in collaboration with PetSmart Charities®.

Since 1968 Winn Feline Foundation and its donors have funded more than \$6.4 million in feline health research, benefiting cats worldwide.



### BRIA FUND STUDY AND NEW FELINE INVESTIGATOR AWARD

#### Understanding genetic differences in immunity to feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). (W18-010)

- Drs. Emi Barker and Christopher Helps; Langford Vets, University of Bristol; \$6,400  
Although feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is caused by a coronavirus, only some infected cats get the disease. This study will examine how genetic differences in a cat's immune system play a role in this disease, and how common these differences are in the general cat population.

### NEW FELINE INVESTIGATOR AWARD - GENOMICS (SPONSORED BY WISDOM HEALTH™)

#### Predicting susceptibility to FeLV infection in cats. (W18-013)

- Elliott Chiu, candidate DVM, PhD, Colorado State University; \$15,000  
Cat genes contain remnants of ancient viral infections, including feline leukemia virus (FeLV). This study will look at whether ancient infection protects against new infection, and whether a test can be developed to predict which cats are susceptible to this disease.

### LUNG CANCER FUND STUDY

#### Evaluating a new drug therapy for lung cancer in cats. (W18-021)

- Drs. Alycen Lundberg and Timothy Fan; University of Illinois; \$24,998  
Lung cancers in cats respond poorly to current therapies. This study will evaluate a promising new drug for efficacy and side effects in cats with primary lung tumors.

### RICKY FUND STUDY (SPONSORED BY HOLLY AGLIALORO IN MEMORY OF AUGUSTUS)

#### Identifying a new biomarker for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM) in cats. (W18-031)

- Drs. Jonathan Stack and Ryan Fries; University of Illinois; \$21,900  
Heart disease in cats can be readily diagnosed and treated, but some of these cats have a short lifespan. This study will evaluate a test used in humans to predict which cats are at highest risk of early death from this disease.

## GENERAL FUND STUDIES

### Using new approaches to modulate feline leukemia virus infection. (W18-014)

- Drs. Cheryl Swenson and Vilma Yuzbasiyan-Gurkan; Michigan State University; \$24,974.  
Feline leukemia causes persistent infection in cats, even when not fatal. This study will look at whether a drug known to decrease a similar infection in mice can also decrease persistent infection in cats.

### Understanding how toxoplasmosis develops in cats could lead to new therapies or prevention. (W18-015)

- Drs. David Arranz Solis and Jeroen Saeij; University of California-Davis; \$17,500.  
Toxoplasmosis can cause serious disease in cats and people, and a highly resistant form in cat feces can contaminate the environment. This study will consider factors that trigger the development of this highly resistant form of the organism, which may lead to effective treatments or preventative vaccines.

### Examining the effectiveness of a low-cost treatment for oral cancer in cats. (W18-019)

- Dr. Michael Nolan; North Carolina State University; \$23,060.  
This study will examine the effectiveness of a simple treatment for oral cancer in cats with few side effects that could make treatment readily available, safe, and affordable.

### Investigating a new pain pathway associated with osteoarthritis in cats. (W18-028)

- Drs. Santosh Mishra and Duncan Lascelles; North Carolina State University; \$23,560.  
Osteoarthritis (degenerative joint disease) is common in older cats, but few effective and safe treatments are available. This study will investigate a new pathway of pain associated with arthritis, which may lead to new therapies for this debilitating disease.

### Determining feeding behavior in cats to manage weight and obesity. (W18-039)

- Drs. Andronie Verbrugghe and Anna-Kate Shoveller; Ontario Veterinary College, Canada; \$24,002.  
Many cats are overweight and controlling their calories sometimes doesn't help. This study will look at whether feeding cats smaller meals more frequently makes a difference.

### Evaluating the genetic differences of amyloidosis in Siamese/ Oriental and Abyssinian/Somali cats. (W18-040)

- Drs. Maria Longeri and Leslie Lyons; University of Milan, Italy and University of Missouri; \$23,870.  
While both Siamese and Abyssinian cats have a genetic mutation that causes accumulation of an abnormal protein in different organs (called amyloidosis), the mutation is different in each breed. This study will characterize the disease in Siamese cats and compare it to the disease in Abyssinians to gain a better understanding of this disease.

### Measuring total cat count in communities. (W18-046)

- Dr. Tyler Flockhart; University of Maryland, Center for Environmental Sciences; \$25,000  
While people debate the best way to manage outdoor cats, there is currently no good way to know how many there are. This study will use scientific methods to accurately measure their numbers so management strategies can be developed to benefit them.