



WINN FELINE FOUNDATION

For the Health and Well-being of All Cats

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WINN FELINE FOUNDATION AWARDS FIVE GRANTS FOR FELINE HEALTH STUDIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MILLER TRUST

Wyckoff, NJ, November 20, 2017: Winn Feline Foundation is pleased to announce the award of five feline health research grants funded in partnership with the George Sydney and Phyllis Redman Miller Trust for 2017. Winn President, Shila Nordone, PhD comments, “With the help of the Miller Trust, Winn Feline Foundation continues to remain at the forefront of funding feline health innovation. As the only foundation focused exclusively on feline medical research support, Winn Feline is in a unique position to help advance the body of medical knowledge on the cat. Winn is also pleased to be a funding source for new clinical scientists in feline medicine with our New Feline Investigator Grant Award established in memory of long-time Winn board member and legal advisor, Fred Jacobberger.” Through the Miller Trust, Winn Feline Foundation is awarding \$127,868 for studies investigating gabapentin dosing as a sedative in cats with chronic kidney disease, using biomarkers to diagnose reflux disease, evaluating the use of mesenchymal stem cells as a treatment for inflammatory bowel disease and chronic gingivostomatitis, and determining stress hormone levels in hair and nails of cats to measure chronic stress.

Grants were awarded for the following research studies:

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 Haafsten, 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 Reinero, 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.



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

*Principal Investigators: 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

*Principal Investigator: 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.

New Feline Investigator Award (In Memory of Fred Jacobberger)

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

*Principal Investigators: 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.

Winn Feline Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1968 that supports studies to improve cat health. Since 1968, the Winn Feline Foundation has funded over \$6 million in health research for cats at more than 30 partner institutions world-wide. For further information, go to www.winnfelinefoundation.org.