

Clinical trial: Evaluation of the efficacy of a dietary supplement in feline idiopathic cystitis

Free CPD reward for referred cases of suspected feline idiopathic cystitis!

For each case of suspected feline idiopathic cystitis that you refer for assessment for the trial, you will receive a free CPD evening at Langford, worth 2 hours of CPD.

If you refer three cases for assessment over a one year period, you will receive a free CPD day at Langford, worth 7 hours of CPD.

The CPD reward can be used by the referring veterinary surgeon or any other vet or nurse from the same practice.

Feline idiopathic cystitis

Feline idiopathic cystitis is a common cause of lower urinary tract disease in cats. Clinical signs include dysuria, stranguria, haematuria, pollakuria and urination in inappropriate locations (periuria). The pathogenesis of this condition is not fully understood. Current long-term treatment recommendations include measures to increase water intake and environmental modification, in particular decreasing stress within the household. The condition however tends to be chronic and long-term management is aimed at minimising trigger factors along with reducing the frequency and severity of episodes, rather than providing a cure.

What is the aim of the Feline Centre's FIC study?

We are planning to **evaluate the clinical efficacy of a dietary supplement** in conjunction to standard management (medical and behavioural) **in cases of feline idiopathic cystitis**. The study will be prospective, double-blinded and placebo-controlled, with a follow-up period of one year.

What is the dietary supplement investigated?

Unfortunately, to avoid introducing bias in the study, we cannot disclose the exact composition of the dietary supplement or its trade name. The supplement is a natural product, which may potentially be helpful in the management of FIC. The supplement is not a drug, and has not been associated with any side effects.

Which cases may be suitable for enrolment?

Any cat that has had a minimum of two episodes of lower urinary tract signs over a six-month period can be referred for assessment.

What does the initial investigation include?

An initial investigation to confirm the diagnosis of idiopathic cystitis will be performed at a **significantly reduced cost** and will determine whether the cat can be enrolled in the study.

The initial investigation includes full medical and behavioural assessments (performed by the feline medicine team and behavioural specialists), blood and urine analysis, and diagnostic imaging as appropriate (including retrograde urinary contrast studies in cases with a history of urethral obstruction). The cost of investigation of the cat's signs will be **£550 for cats without a history of urinary tract obstruction and £920 for cats with previous or current urethral obstruction**, inclusive of VAT. Medication and further hospitalisation for treatment if required are not included in the discounted investigation package.

What happens at enrolment in the study?

Once the diagnosis of idiopathic cystitis is confirmed, the cat can be entered in the study. Clients will receive a detailed medical and behavioural treatment plan for their cat, as well as information about the trial. Each cat will receive the **standard treatment for idiopathic cystitis**, with a plan individualised for each case, including individual behaviour assessment and recommendations, dietary recommendations and appropriate medical treatment for each case. In addition, the cat will receive either the **dietary supplement or placebo**, which will be given once daily for one year. The treatments (supplement and placebo) have the same appearance and are in the same capsules.

Neither the owner, nor us will know whether the cat is receiving the supplement or the placebo (double-blinded study) until the end of the trial. The trial treatment or placebo will be provided **free of charge** for twelve months.

What happens during the 12 months of the study period?

The owner of the cat will be asked to keep daily records of treatment administration, any change in the cat's environment or behaviour and any further signs of cystitis. We will ask for those records to be forwarded to us monthly. We will provide free telephone advice to the owner and yourselves regarding management of the cat's cystitis during the study. In any case of deterioration, we will also reassess the cat again if required.

How can I contact you about a potential case for the trial?

For further information or queries about the suitability of a patient, please do not hesitate to contact us (see contact details below).



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