From benign feline coronavirus to FIP: a study of viral evolution and host antibody response

Client Consent Form

PURPOSE OF STUDY
Feline coronaviruses are generally GI viruses that cause mild or asymptomatic disease. However, feline coronaviruses occasionally evolve to cause the fatal disease known as FIP (feline infectious peritonitis). We are testing the hypothesis that the evolution from feline coronavirus to FIP is caused both by mutations in the virus itself, as well as a change in the cat’s antibody response. To do this we will analyze the genomes of both mutated and unmutated forms of the virus from cats with FIP and their healthy housemates, and use state-of-the-art imaging to visualize antibodies binding to the parts of the virus recognized by the cat’s immune system.

Summary of Procedures to be Performed
If you consent to participation in this study, we will collect samples of blood, feces, and effusion (the fluid that forms in the body during FIP infection) from your cat. Your cat may need to be lightly sedated for sample collection. We will also collect a blood sample and feces from any other unaffected cat(s) in your household.

There is no cost for participation in this study. The study will cover the cost of the following procedures:

- Abdominocentesis or thoracocentesis to obtain fluid sample ($40-120)
- FIP PCR on blood and effusion ($200)
- Feline coronavirus serology ($65)

The risks involved for your cat(s) is minimal. We will collect samples during the course of your cat's routine tests that are performed to diagnose FIP; for healthy housemates we will collect only blood and feces. Risks associated with sample collection from the abdomen or chest have been discussed with your attending veterinarian, and include bruising or bleeding, infection, or very rarely damage to internal organs or bleeding that cannot be stopped. Risks of blood draw include bruising or bleeding. Risks of fecal sampling include bruising or bleeding, infection, or extremely rarely rupture of the colon; these risks are only associated with fecal samples obtained by swabbing (not collection of feces following defecation).

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- the information obtained in this study may not benefit my pet, but will provide veterinarians with valuable information and knowledge about preventing and ultimately treating FIP
- my participation in this study is entirely voluntary and my refusal to participate will not affect my pet’s care in any way
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions and to have them answered to my satisfaction.
- I am welcome to contact the study veterinarian by telephone or e-mail if I have additional questions: Dr. Erin Lashnits may be reached at (608) 265-5800 or lashnits@wisc.edu
- I am at least 18 years of age and authorized to make medical decisions on behalf of this cat
- I consent to having the described procedure(s) performed on my cat for the purposes of this study

Medical Record #: Date: Pet’s Name:

Client/Owner/Agent’s Printed Name:

Client/Owner/Agent’s Signature:

Clinician/Attending Staff Signature:

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