

Dietary treatment of mild to moderate feline chronic enteropathy

Purpose of study

The primary aim of the study is to assess the clinical responses of cats with naturally occurring mild to moderate chronic enteropathy when fed different types of dry kibble diets.

As a part of this study, three visits to UTCVM are required for the patient. Owners must be willing to weigh the cat's food daily for the entire 12 weeks. The owner will be required to complete a daily log of their cat's habits for the duration of the study. The majority of the study is at no cost to the client.

Inclusion criteria

- Cat must be 1-8 years old
- Indoor only
- Body Condition Score (BCS) 3-7/9
- Must have recurring vomiting and/or small bowel diarrhea for > 3 weeks
- Willing and able to eat 100% dry food with no wet food, "toppers", or treats
- No evidence of systemic illness
- If found to be hypcobalaminemic (low in vitamin B12), the owner must be willing to follow the Texas A&M parenteral supplementation protocol, involving weekly and monthly injections
- If a multicat household (up to 3 cats total), the owner must be able to feed all cats in the house the test diet. The owner must also be able to submit patient log information based on only the cat participating in the study.
- All cats in the household must be dewormed with Panacur (fenbendazole) for 5 days within 1 month prior to study enrollment
- Cats that have undergone previous, but unsuccessful, medical treatment for gastrointestinal signs are still eligible



Study benefits

- Initial visit: complimentary physical exam, complete blood count, chemistry with electrolytes, urinalysis, thyroxine level (T4), feline leukemia virus (FeLV), feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), heartworm antigen and antibody, gastrointestinal (GI) panel, fecal test, abdominal imaging (radiographs and ultrasound). The approximate value for the initial visit is \$930. Some of these tests will not be repeated if they have been completed in the prior 4 weeks, nor will owner be reimbursed.
- 4-week and 12-week rechecks: complimentary physical exams and recheck labwork. The approximate value for the recheck appointments is \$435.
- Food will be provided at no cost for all cats in the home, regardless of participation in the study.

Costs to client

If the cat is hypcobalaminemic, cobalamin supplementation must be undertaken at the client's own expense. Administration of Panacur prior to study enrollment is also at the client's own expense.

Contact information

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