

FAT CAT needs your help



Saddle thrombi are a devastating consequence of feline cardiomyopathy, resulting in painful paresis and paralysis, usually of the hind limbs. With care and support, many cats survive the first episode, recover some or all limb function, but then suffer a re-thrombosis. Preventing, or delaying the second event is a goal of many feline practitioners. However, no anti-thrombotic agents have been shown to effectively reduce the risk of re-thrombosis.

FAT CAT (Feline Aortic Thromboembolism: Clopidogrel vs Aspirin Trial) is the first prospective blinded study to examine the ability of an anti-thrombotic (Clopidogrel; Plavix®) in preventing recurrence of saddle thrombi, compared to aspirin.

Dr. Dan Hogan, at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, with a grant from the Morris Animal Foundation and support from the VIN Foundation, is coordinating the study. Veterinarians can enroll cats on-line, manage their cases from their practice (there is no need for cats or clients to be sent to Indiana), and clients are reimbursed for enrolling their pets (see the protocol page online for full reimbursement details). All drugs will be provided by the study coordinators. There is no requirement for study participants to be VIN members.

To be eligible, cats must have survived an initial saddle thrombus episode by 1-3 months, and have echocardiographic evidence of cardiac disease. Cats can be provisionally enrolled at the time of the initial event, but will need to survive at least a month to be enrolled.

Full details of the study can be found at www.vin.com/fatcat/

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Please contact Dr Hogan through the FATCAT homepage for further details if you wish to participate in finding a treatment for this disease.