

Steve Dale (Master of Ceremonies):

*{Pre-Audio transcript: That helped us to discover what it was. Of course it was feline leukemia. There was a kind of heart disease, dilated cardiomyopathy. Cats were going blind, cats were dying, no one knew why. Paul Pion, a veterinarian in California, as Californians are known to do, had this crazy idea there was not enough taurine in pet foods. The Winn Feline Foundation supported the research. Funded it. It turns out Dr. Pion was completely correct.*

*Recently, with diabetes in cats, it turns out with some cats some of the time, increased protein and taking off some weight can put that cat into remission. It was the Winn Feline Foundation that funded that research.*

*What about FIP? The two pioneers that I will have the honor to introduce are so very responsible for what we know about feline infectious peritonitis. We have been funding Dr. Pedersen for a very long time, from the beginning. In fact, I think Dr. Pedersen has heard me say it, Dr. Legendre has, and it is going to end up in some newspaper or on some blog or maybe some will tweak it... "Is if FIP had happened in the dog world, I think it would have been figured out already." I'm not wrong on that.}*

Sometimes, in fact for years, people said "Well, FIP really doesn't happen that often. Dr. Pedersen has pointed out on his sock FIP site that FIP kills 1 in 100 or 1 in 300 of all cats under the ages of 3 to 5, and the incidence is greater when kids are from tarries or from shelters. Is that enough to do something about it? Some of you might know about the cat that I had named Ricky. Do you know who I'm talking about, if any of you heard about this cat? Well, Ricky played the piano and Ricky was a very social cat. He would not only play the piano in our house because what cat doesn't but, we would make appearances and he had recitals at Pet-Co stores or Pet-Smart stores, and Ricky had a bond with me that I don't think will ever be replicated by a dog or a cat and it turned out he had hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, a kind of heart disease that cats can get, and sometimes these cats often just die, that's what happened with Ricky, and began the Ricky Fund with the WINN Foundation.

Shortly after that, I heard about a cat named Bria from Susan Gingrich. A little kitten that died of FIP, and she said that same thing that I said about hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. This has got to stop. This can't happen anymore. We have to make a difference. And she came to me just after a time when -- and this is what happens, and if some of you are cat breeders, some of you are veterinarians, maybe

veterinarian technicians, you know this. Just cat owners know this. Here's what happens. The cat dies of whatever that cat dies of and then you bring another kitten into that household because the other cat passed away. There might be kids in the house. How do you explain to the little kids what happens with FIP? And here, we had a kitten that we brought in our house. Our case we don't have our kids but we have Ringo, what was the cat's name, a little kitten's name. Ringo was just months old and I'll tell you, we had friends who would come over to our house and said "Steve, you've gotten into birds" and I said "Birds? What do you mean? But because Ringo, whenever Ringo would walk into a room, Ringo would chirp like a bird, and this was the happiest little kitten that actually never walked into a room but always run into a room. It does seem that way with FIP, doesn't it? It happens to these brave little kittens who come into our lives often because the owners have lost another pet, and I can't think of anything more awful than that.

I'm here to introduce the speakers. I'm here to tell you a little about the Winn Foundation, but I'm also here to help us raise money. We kept the dinner affordable on purpose but there's a little piece of paper in your envelope and we want you to give and it's important and I hope you consider that because what you've given so far -- to all of you in this room and so many others really has to made a difference, and you're about to hear how that could make a difference, and at the very least, these little bands are being sold, these green bands, they are just to wear only \$5, so I hope you pick up one of those. As I said, I am the board of directors to the Winn Feline Foundation. I would like to ask my fellow board members, the colleagues on the board to stand up, if you will.

I am so proud to be on this board because we all have one thing and only one thing, and that is better life for our cats. So I mentioned this name that I got an e-mail from, and the name Gingrich is kind of, you know, a well-known name in America, so when I got the e-mail, I was like "Hmm, this is interesting." Susan Gingrich has done so much to push -- in fact, I don't believe anyone would say no to her, so if you don't fill out that little form for me, do it for Susan Gingrich. Her name is every word on the internet -- no, not on those websites, but she has -- she really has done so much because she and a small army of people including Marlene in Brussels who would send me repeated e-mails, you could applaud her. Saying "My gosh, I wish I could be there". Julie Stanton Welsh, who is here, and so many others. It's an army of people and I thank you all.

I have some quick acknowledgement to make. The image right up there comes from Jaime Perry. When it comes to food, I am happy to say thank you at any

time. Cat Fanciers Association Southern Region arranged the dinner. We have a legend in this room from the Cat Fanciers Association. We've worked together on legislative projects to do the right thing. I'm proud to know Joan Miller. Please stand up. The Winn Feline Foundation might not be here if it wasn't for Joan. Thank you and thank you for everything you do.

When I interview Joan and she goes on about every legislative topic we're talking about how can anyone be so smart, really. The Catalyst Council is a non-profit organization; their goal is to elevate the status of [cats. Their Executive Director, Dr. Jane Brunt, is here. Now, in your packet besides those cards that I hope you fill in the number and give some money, because really, that's what we need to make a difference are also cards that you ask questions, and at the very end, the members of the board and maybe some of the volunteers that can collect the cards, that's after Dr. Legendre speaks and after Dr. Pedersen speaks, and they will be here and I will be rattling off some questions for them. So scribble them out if you'd like and I'm more than happy to ask the questions that we have time to ask.

This is -- I'm nervous about this. I've done so many things and talked of this in front of so many people but this one is exciting, Dr. Alfred Legendre, professor of internal medicine and oncology, small animal clinical sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. He's been actively involved in small animal medicine research and teaching for over 30 years with a special interest in infectious diseases, including feline leukemia and FIP. Dr. Legendre is extensively published and published his first article on FIP in 1975. He has received lots of awards for his work as a teacher and researcher receiving the Mark L. Morris Lifetime achievement award and the Dr. Robert B Kirk distinguished service award in 2006. He is also a founding editor the Journal of Veterinarian Internal Medicine published by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine, ACVIM. Please, help me welcome Dr. Legendre.