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give TO THE **MAX**
Nov. 19, 2020

2020 has been a difficult year for all of us. It is no different for us at Paws Place Animal Sanctuary. Due to Covid-19, we (like most non-profits) have been unable to hold our normal fundraising events and yet our needs remain the same: food, litter, medical expenses are ongoing.

So, this year's Give to the Max event is especially critical and we need your support now more than ever. If you missed out on events you normally attend during the year (state fair, sporting events, musical venues, etc.), and if you can, please consider taking some of the money you would have spent at these events and make a generous gift to Paws Place. This will enable us to continue providing for the special needs animals in our care.

Go to GiveMN.org and enter Paws Place Animal Sanctuary in the search area. Look for the photo of Peanut:



Click on the donate button; the rest is easy. If you have an account, simply log in and continue to Paws Place Animal Sanctuary. GiveMN keeps track of your contributions so at the end of the year you will have a recap for tax reporting purposes.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we all thank you for your support.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis Submitted by Deb Elliott

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a fatal disease that affects cats. There are two forms, wet (effusive) and dry. Of the two types, the wet version is seen 60-70 percent of cases and progresses much more rapidly than the dry form. It is considered fatal 95% of the time. Life expectancy after diagnosis is a month in adults, less in kittens.

How Is It Contracted?

FIP comes from a virus that normally lives in the guts of most cats; it is a corona virus. FIP is considered an aberrant immune response (inflammatory) to this common virus. In its virulent form, it can be contracted in many ways, most often through direct contact between cats. This occurs naturally among large populations of cats such as: barn cat groups, feral cat communities, rescues, shelters, and breeding households or catteries. It can be passed through feces in communal litter boxes, walking in diarrhea inside or outside of a litter box, through contaminated litter on the fur or brushing with a contaminated brush that is then groomed—thus the virus is ingested through the mouth. Contaminated litter scoops also spread microscopic dust and wastes as it moves from one litter box to the next. Cats can also spread it through sneezing, grooming each other, and the saliva on multi-cat food and water bowls.

Why Is It So Fatal?

FIP is a virus; viruses cannot be treated with antibiotics. Antibiotics only affect bacteria. Suffering cats can only be treated for symptoms. There is no vaccine.

Initially, the disease shows up in symptoms like the common cold: sneezing, coughing, runny nose, etc. It can take up to a full year after first exposure for the disease to mature into its life-threatening form.

The wet form of the disease is the easiest to detect because its most prominent symptom is accumulation of fluid in the chest and/or abdomen. The buildup of fluid causes shortness of breath and overall difficulty breathing. Other interim signs are lack of appetite, diarrhea, jaundice, fever, and weight loss. Later symptoms include the inability to control voluntary muscle movements (ataxia), breathing difficulties, and muscle weakness. By the end, the cat can hardly breathe, is incontinent, and shows signs of paralysis.

Dry FIP presents with similar symptoms like the early wet form: the lack of appetite, diarrhea, jaundice, fever, and weight loss, but there is no fluid accumulation. Granulomas (small areas of inflammation) accumulate instead of the fluid; these cause eye issues like involuntary pupil widening and paralysis, up to and including blindness. They also impact the nervous system causing difficulties in standing, walking and typical movements, leading ultimately to paralysis. End stage cats also exhibit lethargy, seizures, and anemia.

How Is It Treated?

Some antiviral drugs are available: feline recombinant interferon omega. An experimental drug, which is not yet legal/approved in the U.S. is GS-441524. In a study of 31 infected cats that were treated with the drug, 25 cats survived FIP. Of those, eight had shown signs of cure, but relapsed. They repeated the treatment with

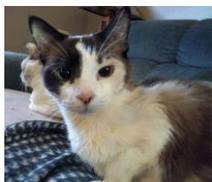
stronger doses; of the eight that relapsed, seven survived. Another antiviral drug, C376 had 20 cats in its trial; seven went into remission. The others initially had a positive response, relapsed, and later had to be put down.

Resources

Online groups are available for support for people with cats infected with FIP. Facebook has several such groups, FIP Warriors for one, Loki Bug (185 days post treatment) and Leo are two survivors.

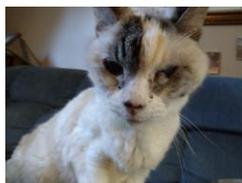


FEATURED RESIDENTS



Lacy came to Paws Place in 2011 when she was dropped off, taped up in a box and left on top of the garbage can

in the alley. This was on garbage day. Luckily for Lacy, the garbage had already been picked up. She was about five months old. We determined she was unadoptable because she had inappropriate urination habits-spraying. Other than that, she is a sweet kitty. Recently she managed to find her way into the rafters in the basement. She refused to come down and was up there for two days before she finally decided she'd had enough isolation and came down on her own. She didn't want to eat at first, so we had to start force feeding her, giving her fluids to rehydrate her, and vitamin B12 shots to stimulate her appetite. After a few days she started feeling better and began to eat on her own. She is back to her normal self, getting into mischief.



Persia went into renal failure this summer. Worried we might lose her, we began

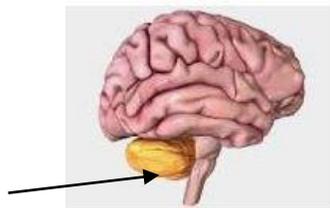
giving her fluids, 300 ml to start, and force feeding her. After a week we were able to reduce her fluids to 200 ml and then down to 100 ml a day. She is now on kidney supplements in addition to medication for Hyperthyroid. She has had more than her fair share of medical issues, including urinary tract infection, Pillow Foot (described in a previous newsletter), and losing all her teeth. We believe a lot of her problems resulted

from her experience during Hurricane Katrina. She came to us as a rescue from Louisiana in 2005. Today, she is doing well, thin but happy.

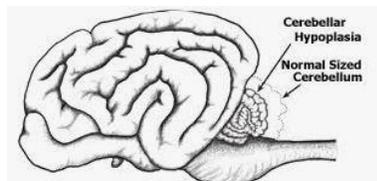


Cerebellar Hypoplasia Submitted by Deb Elliott

Ever seen a bobble-head cat? Not a plastic one, but one furred and in the flesh? If you have, then you've seen a cat with Cerebellar Hypoplasia (CH). A neurological condition, CH may affect brain development in the womb and throughout infant development up to 89 days in cats. Its name means that the cerebellum is either not completely developed or is smaller than normal. Such affected felines are known to have "wobbly cat syndrome."



Human brain, cerebellum, normal size



Feline brain

The condition affects dogs, cattle and humans as well as cats.

Causes and Preventions

Some breeds of dogs and cattle pass CH genetically; this has yet to surface genetically in cats. However, the most common cause of CH in cats is through the distemper virus.

Pregnant dams can pass along certain viruses like feline parvo (more familiarly called "distemper" or scientifically known as Feline panleukopenia, also by its acronym FPLV). The virus interferes with kittens' brain development while still in the womb. A female cat may become infected while pregnant or if vaccinated with a modified live FPV (feline parvo virus, which is the same as FPLV) when pregnant. Pet owners should keep their companions up to date with

vaccinations, especially on outdoor cats (unbred and not in "heat" or estrus) who are much more likely to contract viruses when they interact with other animals in the wild. Loving, responsible owners should have non-breeding female cats spayed before reaching sexual maturity, which can be as early as four (4) months old. Infant kittens may also be infected with the virus immediately upon or right after birth. Kittens younger than 8 weeks should **not** be vaccinated with modified live distemper solutions before that age for that reason. If kittens contract distemper and survive, it disrupts cerebellar development during the crucial first eight weeks of life.

Although distemper is the most common cause of CH, there are others; these include:

- Hypoxia (lack of oxygen to the brain)
- Fungal infections (mycotic)
- Traumatic brain injury
- Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP), also a virus
- Rickettsial infections (spread through fleas, lice, mites or ticks)
- Toxoplasmosis (a protozoa infection)
- Malnutrition, either through poor nutrition or because of an inability to absorb nutrients

Signs and Impact of CH

According to scientists, the cerebellum or "hind brain" adjusts, controls and plans muscle movement in the extremities, trunk, and eyes. In humans, it's theorized that the cerebellum can also impact thought processes, emotional reactions, and non-voluntary muscle function in the heart, lungs, and abdomen. In a study on mice, slight anomalies in the cerebellum were associated with behaviors similar to autism.

However, its overall impact and severity can vary, depending on the area of the cerebellum affected and the extent of damage in that location.

If kittens suffered damage before birth, signs would manifest immediately afterward. Such kittens may have difficulty finding or latching on to nipples, sucking and swallowing, and have difficulty competing with siblings for nipples and warmth.

As affected kittens grow older, other signs surface when they try to stand and walk; they show odd behaviors like rolling instead of standing or walking, trembling or jerking, swerving instead of moving in a straight line, and the

classic head bobbing. Some CH kittens never walk.

The effects of CH may be seen in any of these behaviors:

- Cannot control range of motion
- Has poor muscle tone
- Cannot coordinate complex motions (like jumping and catching a toy at the same time)
- Cannot do fast, alternating movements (like batting a toy from paw to paw)
- Cannot control eye movements, causing irises to move up and down, side to side, or around and around spasmodically
- Has an unbalanced, splayed gait
- Does not have typical domestic cat meows, chirps, etc.
- Tremors

CH's severity varies from mild to moderate to severe.

Treatment and Medication Considerations

CH is a lifelong, chronic disease; it has no cure. As a CH kitten grows older, it can develop and strengthen its muscles, which can improve the cat's overall muscle tone. Building stamina also helps improve mobility.

A CH cat should receive standard veterinary care, including regular checkups, parasite prevention, spay/neutering and vaccinations, like any healthy cat. CH cats should never be declawed because their claws provide stability through the ability to grip surfaces thus aiding their mobility.

Any anesthesia that contains ketamine must be avoided as it can cause jerky movements after recovery and is very slow to metabolize out of the body. There are many other alternatives, however. In addition, certain medications that can have neurological side effects or ataxia must be assessed carefully before use; again, alternatives are highly encouraged when available.

Symptoms can be treatable. CH cats can benefit from alternative treatments like acupuncture, massage, and a variety of water therapies.

Around the House

Mild or moderate severity CH cats can get around pretty well in the average home. Having carpeting gives them a surface that they can sink their claws for stability. Uncarpeted stairways can pose a significant hazard; blocking off

access to these might be a good idea. Banisters are also risky; installing nets on them helps keep a wobbly cat on the stairs rather than off. Carpeted ramps, towels, and blankets (tucked in securely) provide help when CH cats want to climb onto furniture. Having pillows or pads available on the floor to break falls is also important when clambering up on furniture fails. Padding sharp corners and edges with pool noodles or pipe insulation tubes prevents wobbly cat injuries. For window-gazers, protecting perches and ledges with sideboards also helps wobbly cats stay in place.

Imagine how hard it is to eat or drink while suffering from tremors! Food and water bowls of soft silicone (to prevent mouth bruising or tooth chips) at chest height can help keep a bobbing head more under control. Building a chute around the food bowl can also provide needed stability while eating. Head bobs can also dunk noses when drinking is attempted. Pet water fountains, non-spill bowls and rabbit water bottles can help a CH cat to drink on its own. Water droppers or syringes also work, but then the cat is dependent on you to prevent dehydration. Adding broth or water to canned foods to make them soupy also gets more liquid into a CH-challenged cat.

Potty time with wobbles and tremors is also a major challenge. Experts recommend using potty pads. Extra high walled litter boxes give the kitties something to lean on when they do their business. Use hypoallergenic, unscented, no-alcohol baby wipes on messy mouths and bottoms. Pelleted litters are preferable to clumping ones if the kitty falls in or lays in the litter box. Shaving the cat's bottom also helps prevent messes and their accompanying clean up.

Recommended Resources

An organization, www.chcat.org describes levels of severity and has suggestions for home accommodations for cats with each level of disability. A Facebook page named Cerebellar Hypoplasia Cats and Kittens is also a terrific resource.



WHAT IS YOUR PLAN FOR YOUR PETS IN AN EMERGENCY?

If 2020 has taught us anything, it is that we should be prepared for the well-being of our pets under any circumstance. Covid-19 has hospitalized a number of people with little warning. Fires in California, Oregon and Colorado have forced people out of their homes with little more than the clothes on their backs. Floods due to hurricanes and heavy rain have also caused people to flee their homes. Think it can't happen to you? Think again. Be prepared.

This is especially important if you are responsible for animals. Ask one or two friends or relatives you can count on to serve as temporary emergency caregivers if needed. Make sure they have keys to your home as well as care and feeding instructions and the name of your veterinarian. Carry an 'alert card' in your wallet with names and phone numbers of emergency contacts.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who have made a gift to Paws Place Animal Sanctuary this summer. Our special thanks to Frieda Bormann who has been giving us monthly donations through GiveMN. We are grateful for your support.

Thanks to Deb Elliott for providing the two informational articles for this issue. We appreciate your hard work on our behalf!

There are several ways you can help Paws Place: We are registered with both GoodShop and Amazon Smile. A portion of your purchase price comes back to Paws Place, at no additional expense to you. So, please remember us when you are doing your holiday shopping, or anytime. Every little bit adds up and is put to good use. We are grateful to you all for your support.

All donations generated are spent on behalf of the animals and are tax deductible as permitted by law.

Our best to you this coming holiday season and throughout the New Year!

**Paws Place Animal Sanctuary
P. O. Box 378
Rosemount, MN 55068**

_____ Become a member - \$25.00 per year

_____ Sponsor a pet Name of Pet _____
\$25.00 a month – help a specific animal with food and lodging.
Receive a photo and history.

_____ Contribute toward ongoing expenses.

_____ Contribute toward medical expenses.

_____ Donate in honor of _____
_____ Donate in memory of _____

_____ Give a Gift Certificate (birthday/holiday etc.)
Name of recipient: _____

Amount donated _____ My check is my receipt.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

_____ I would like to volunteer; please contact me.

Send your tax-deductible donation to:
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