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## Cats sought for feline infectious peritonitis study

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THE Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary

Studies (R[D]SVS) is recruiting cats with likely or confirmed feline infectious peritonitis (FIP). Approximately 100 cats will hopefully provide important insights into the diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of FIP. Raised  $\alpha$ 1-acid glycoprotein (AGP) concentrations help in the diagnosis of FIP, hence as part of the study we are offering free AGP testing on serum/ plasma/effusions from cats with likely/confirmed FIP (wet and dry). Residual blood will be assessed for acute phase proteins (APP) (including AGP) and microRNA (miRNA) profiles, to determine their usefulness in the diagnosis, monitoring and/or prognosis of FIP. We want to follow APP, miRNA, case histories (including clinical pathology reports) and replies from owner questionnaires, from diagnosis through treatment and beyond. This may allow us to see if particular APP and/or miRNA profiles can predict how individual cats may respond to treatment. Identifying non-responders may stop them from being given unhelpful medicines and save their owners money.

We also plan to assess residual blood from samples submitted for haematology and biochemistry for diagnosis after 10–12 weeks of treatment with the antiviral compound GS-441524 and 22–24 weeks later.

We hope to see if APPs/miRNA profiles can help in determining when it is safe to stop treatment and in identifying potential relapse. The short owner questionnaires will report how the cat is doing, ease of medicine administration and any potential side effects. Thanks to Covid-19, GS-441524 and its prodrug remdesivir were identified as demonstrating anticoronavirus properties in people and cats.<sup>1</sup> We want to assess the therapeutic drug monitoring of cats being treated with GS-441524, and eventually remdesivir (both drugs have been ethically and legally formulated for animal treatment in the UK and can be used to treat cats with FIP). We hope this will allow us to see if it is possible to fine-tune an individual cat's dosing; for example, not underdosing (risking relapse) or overdosing (risking toxicity and increased expense to the owner). Cats can only be enrolled in the study with the written, informed consent of their owners. Samples should be sent to the G.22 Clinical Laboratory at the R(D)SVS address below; submission forms can be found at [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/services/easter-bush-pathology/resources](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/services/easter-bush-pathology/resources). If you would like to know more about this study or to request a consent form, please contact [fipadvice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:fipadvice@ed.ac.uk) or see our website, [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/services/easter-bush-pathology/research/research-articles/there-is-hope-for-cats-with-fip](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/services/easter-bush-pathology/research/research-articles/there-is-hope-for-cats-with-fip)