

THE HISTORY OF SOCK

Save Our Cats and Kittens (SOCK) was founded in 1974 to support feline leukemia research at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. Funds raised by SOCK helped Davis researchers develop diagnostic tests and effective vaccines for feline leukemia. Today, SOCK has been revived to help the UC Davis Center for Companion Animal Health (CAHA) raise research funding for feline infectious peritonitis (FIP).



Dr. Niels C. Pedersen with SOCK FIP Volunteers

HOW TO HELP US SOCK IT TO FIP!

- Send in a donation to support FIP research
- Add a link to sockfip.org on your website
- Tell your friends about sockfip.org
- Give brochures to your veterinarian
- Ask your veterinarian to refer clients to sockfip.org if they are losing a cat to FIP
- Send in DNA Samples for FIP research - go to sockfip.org for more information
- Make purchases through www.iGive.com to support **SOCK FIP**
- Become a fan of our **SOCK FIP** page on Facebook
- Host a **SOCK FIP** information booth or fundraiser at an event or cat show
- Join the **SOCK FIP** team to spread the word and help us find solutions

PLEASE SUPPORT SOCK FIP AND FIP RESEARCH

To achieve breakthroughs in FIP research, funds are needed. If you would like to make a donation, please send a check to the address below, or you can use PayPal on our website.

SOCK FIP

685 W. Sunnyoaks Avenue
Campbell, CA 95008

You can also contact the UC Davis Center for Companion Animal Health at (530) 752-7295 or email us at sockfip@me.com

www.sockfip.org

SOCK FIP is a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Organization. All funds raised by SOCK FIP will support FIP research at the UC Davis Center for Companion Animal Health.

Please visit our website for information and current research on FIP, as well as support resources for those who are facing or have experienced the loss of a beloved cat to FIP.



ABOUT OUR LOGO

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This sweet, loving little kitten, Lucy, was adopted at four months of age by the Sanchez family. The family adored her, but, tragically, Lucy died of FIP two months later. Claudia Sanchez, the artist, painted this portrait of Lucy as Lucy reached out with her tiny paw. SOCK FIP's Board of Directors were so moved by Lucy's story and Claudia's rendering of her cat that we adopted Lucy as our logo.

FIP

THE THREE WORST LETTERS
ANY CAT LOVER CAN HEAR



SOCK FIP

SAVE OUR CATS AND KITTENS FROM
FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS

SOCK FIP is a global consortium of cat lovers, rescue groups, breeders, veterinarians, and geneticists working together to raise funds for research into the cause, diagnosis, prevention, treatment, and cure of FIP.

SOCK FIP team members are also dedicated to helping cat lovers better understand this devastating disease.

www.sockfip.org



"Red" - one of many cats lost to FIP

WHAT IS FIP?

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a disease that can affect as many as 1 in 20 kittens and young cats under ages three to five years. FIP is virtually 100% fatal and can manifest weeks, months or even years after initial infection. Cat lovers usually experience the heartbreak of this disease long after they have developed strong emotional bonds with their pets.

WHAT CAUSES FIP?

FIP is caused by a mutation of the feline coronavirus. Coronaviruses of various species exist in most types of animals and humans, and usually cause non-fatal respiratory or enteric disease. It is believed that whether a cat will develop FIP depends on its immune system and a genetic susceptibility to the disease. Stress can also play a key role in the onset of FIP.

ARE THERE ANY TESTS FOR FIP?

There is no single definitive test for FIP at this time. However the diagnosis of FIP should be relatively simple given its affinity for younger cats, its strong tendency to involve catteries and shelters, typical physical and historical findings, and numerous characteristic laboratory abnormalities.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF FIP?

Cats with FIP may exhibit growth retardation, loss of appetite, depression, rough coat, weight loss, a fluctuating antibiotic resistant fever, and susceptibility to secondary infections such as respiratory disease. Wet FIP is characterized by a straw colored fluid that accumulates in the cat's abdomen. Dry FIP is characterized by lesions that occur on the cat's internal organs and central nervous system. Uveitis can also affect the eyes, making them look cloudy and changing the color of the iris.

IS FIP CONTAGIOUS?

While the coronavirus is easily transmitted between cats, this does not mean a coronavirus infected cat will develop FIP. Cats who do develop FIP do not appear to be contagious, however, based on clinical observations and confirmed by laboratory studies as well.

ARE THERE TREATMENTS FOR FIP?

There is currently no proven treatment for FIP. There have been reports that feline interferon omega is effective, however studies at UC Davis and in Europe on the use of interferon omega in treating FIP showed this expensive treatment had no more efficacy than placebos.

HOW TO CARE FOR CATS WITH FIP

The primary concern should be to make the cat comfortable and then to decide when to say goodbye. Cortisone can help reduce inflammation and encourage appetite. Good nutrition, hydration and non-stressful environments are also important, but in almost all cases they serve only to prolong the inevitable. Therefore, symptomatic treatment should be used only if the animals are not suffering.

IS THERE AN FIP VACCINE?

A vaccine has been developed and is available. However, it has to be used in kittens at least 16 weeks of age, is not effective in cats already exposed to the coronavirus (most cats), is not effective against the common serotype of FIPV, and even when all factors are optimal, has low efficacy. UC Davis researchers do not recommend its use.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

The last decade has provided researchers with new tools and technology to answer some of the most important questions about FIP. Sequencing of the entire feline genome is complete and may facilitate the discovery of genes involved in FIP susceptibility and resistance and help develop tests to identify cats that carry these traits.

Researchers now can also rapidly extract and sequence entire virus genomes to study how the virus and host cells interact, which is important for anti-viral drug development. With these new tools and techniques, and the insights that have already been achieved through decades of research, there is every reason to believe that a breakthrough in FIP disease identification and management will be found.



The Center for Companion Animal Health at the UC Davis Veterinary School