

The Prevalence of Feline Chronic Gingivo-Stomatitis in Vet-Visiting Cats in North West England.

Foster, Kitty; Cripps, Peter; Pinchbeck, Gina; Burrow, Rachel; Gaskell, Chris; Radford, Alan; Gaskell, Rosalind; Dawson, Susan.
University of Liverpool, Neston, UK.

Feline Chronic Gingivo-Stomatitis (FCGS) is a poorly understood syndrome causing inflammation of the gums and mouths of cats. Cats can be very severely affected, and when poorly responsive to treatment, may be euthanased. In the absence of similar studies, our objective was to establish the prevalence of FCGS in cats visiting first opinion small animal veterinarians in the North West of England. Following an initial two week pilot study, fifteen practices were approached, of which twelve agreed to participate in the study. This provided a population of approximately 6000 cats.

Veterinarians were educated to accurately identify cases of FCGS according to our case definition based on clinical signs. During the twelve week sampling period the location of oral lesions, results of virus testing and any concurrent health problems were recorded for any cat fitting the case definition. Age, sex and breed information was also gathered for every cat seen by a veterinarian in a consultation during this time period; this data was collected using the practices' computer system.

The prevalence of FCGS was 0.79% (95%CI, 0.5% to 1.1%) of cats. Of these cats affected by FCGS, 40.7% were new cases, 51.9% were ongoing cases, and the previous history of 7.4% of these cats was unknown.

Further analysis will examine age, sex and breed distribution in the cats with FCGS and the sample population, and may further our understanding of some of the risk factors for this syndrome.