

## THE INTERNATIONAL FELINE ENCEPHALITIS STUDY GROUP

Thank you for participating in this study.

The International Feline Encephalitis Study Group would be grateful to receive blood samples from **cats with new-onset seizures of unknown origin** to investigate the underlying causes of feline epilepsy.

**Samples required: serum and, if available, whole blood. Serum** in plain or serum gel tube (please allow to clot, centrifuge before posting and send serum and clot), **blood** in EDTA tube.

Practice name and address:.....

.....Post Code:.....

Tel Number: ..... E-mail address:.....

Vet in charge of case: .....Signature of vet or owner\*:.....

*\*Signature indicates owners have been informed and consent to review of clinical records and storage of excess blood and serum for clinical research purposes, including genetic analysis. **For owner consent to additionally participate in clinical follow up study, please see page 2.***

Owner's name: ..... Cat's name: .....

Age: ..... yrs .....mths Breed: .....

Sex at diagnosis (please circle): MN FN ME FE

Indoor / outdoor cat..... FIV / FeLV status (if known).....

Date of onset of seizures:..... Seizure frequency:.....

Seizure type (circle all appropriate): focal / focal to secondary generalised / primary generalised.

Presentation – please tick as appropriate:

### Seizure-associated signs

Orofacial motor signs

Mydriasis

Vacant episodes

Salivation

Vocalisation

### Other clinical signs

Aggression

Decreased menace response

Confusion

Fever

Decrease in appetite

Urinary retention

Other (specify)..... Other (specify).....

Treatments tried and response: e.g. anti-epileptic drugs, steroids, antibiotics. Please note any adverse reactions to drugs.

.....

Please list any other known concurrent diseases and medical treatments, laboratory abnormalities, and diagnostic imaging findings:.....

.....

Samples to: Dr Sophie Binks, Oxford Autoimmune Neurology Group, Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences, Level 6, West Wing, John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Oxford, OX3 9DU  
Please direct any study-related queries to [sophie.binks@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.binks@ndcn.ox.ac.uk)

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## Owner information sheet and consent form

You are being provided with this information because your cat is being treated for seizures (fits) by your vet. We are undertaking research into the causes of seizures of unknown origin in pet cats, with the aim of identifying new diagnostic tests and treatments.

One potential cause of seizures is inflammation of the brain, known as encephalitis. This can also cause confusion and behavioural change, and may be due to infectious or autoimmune causes. Autoimmune means an animal's immune system reacts against its own body, instead of nature's intended targets of bacteria and viruses, often by producing immune molecules known as 'antibodies'. So, if the immune system reacts in this way against the brain, it results in encephalitis. Seizures and encephalitis are a serious health problem with potentially devastating outcomes.

The International Feline Encephalitis Study Group is researching the causes of seizures in domestic cats, including a particular type of epilepsy called 'Feline Partial Cluster Seizures with Orofacial Involvement' (FEPSCO). We are keen to find the best way to identify and treat affected cats. If enrolled in this study, your cat will be tested for a common infectious cause of feline seizures, known as Toxoplasma, as well as antibody screening for autoimmune causes, which is only available as a research test at present. This study has the approval of the Royal Veterinary College Clinical Research and Ethical Review Board (Ref: URN 2020 1957-2).

If you are happy for your cat to participate, your vet will send us a blood sample from your cat along with some clinical information. In return we will send them the results of our diagnostic testing for infection as soon as this is available. Following completion of diagnostic testing, any residual blood will be stored and used for clinical research purposes that will include antibody testing and genetic analysis. The results of the antibody test will also be fed back to your vet in due course.

The results of the study will be published, but any personal details provided on the Sample Submission Form will be treated as confidential information and handled in accordance with GDPR. There is no obligation to participate and your decision will not affect your cat receiving the best available standard of veterinary care. For further details about the study please contact Dr Sophie Binks at: [sophie.binks@ndcn.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sophie.binks@ndcn.ox.ac.uk)

**We are now following up on the progress of cats who have screened positive for LGI1-autoantibodies on our research assay to help understand long-term outcomes and factors influencing these. If you would be happy to take part, please indicate this below (circle/delete as appropriate):**

**I am happy to be contacted by a researcher from the International Feline Encephalitis study group to discuss my cat's medical progress: YES NO**

Signed:.....

PRINT NAME:..... Date:.....

Preferred contact details:.....

