

# Dissection Of The Cat And Comparisons With Man: A Laboratory Manual On Felis Domestica

Acta Veterinaria (Beograd), Vol. 58, No. 1, 17-23, 2008.

DOI: 10.2298/AVB0801017D

UDK 619:616.983:636.8

PRESENCE OF Ig G ANTIBODIES AGAINST CHLAMYDOPHILA FELIS IN CATS POSITIVE TO FIV AND/OR FELV

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(Received 12. June 2007)

The aim of our study was to confirm the presence of Ig G antibodies against *Chlamydia felis* (Cp, felis) in cats infected with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) and/or feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and possible higher incidence of any clinical symptoms. A group of 30 cats which had been exposed to FIV and/or FeLV were tested for chlamydial antibodies presence. FIV and FeLV exposure were established by commercial ELISA rapid tests. The results of serological testing to antibodies against Cp, felis in cats with immunofluorescence assay (IFA) are shown. In 16.7% (5/30) of tested cats Ig G antibodies against Cp, felis were found. No correlation with FIV and/or FeLV infection neither with clinical symptoms of upper respiratory tract could be confirmed.

Key words: cats, immune response, *Chlamydia felis*, FeLV, FIV

## INTRODUCTION

*Cp. felis* (previously *Chlamydia psittaci* or feline pneumonitis agent) was first isolated in the United States from cats with respiratory disease in 1942 (Baker, 1944). The disease is clinically characterized by conjunctivitis, sneezing and coughing, accompanied by mucopurulent ocular and nasal discharges. *Cp. felis* is primarily considered an ocular pathogen with or without rhinitis rather than a pulmonary pathogen (Sykes, 2001). Chlamydiae can also cause fever, lethargy, lameness, and reduction in weight gain in infected kittens (Terwee *et al.*, 1998). A few reports of epidemiological investigations of feline chlamydiosis can be found (Pudjatioko *et al.*, 1996; Dovč *et al.*, 1998; Yan *et al.*, 2000). Seroprevalence studies indicate some variability among *Cp. felis* strains (Pudjatioko *et al.*, 1996). Nevertheless, *Cp. felis* strains show a substantial degree of rRNA and ompA gene conservation and belong to a distinct serotype (Pudjatioko *et al.*, 1997).

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