Host immune response to FCoV infection is one of the determinants of disease severity. Cats infected with low-virulent FCoV that possess a strong cell-mediated immunity (CMI) response usually do not develop FIP-associated FCoV. Cats with an intrinsically poor CMI response tend to develop FIP-associated FCoV with effusions, and cats with a partial CMI response tend to develop FIP-associated FCoV without effusions. However, as disease progresses, effusions may develop in cats with primary FIP-associated FCoV without effusions and vice versa.