EveryCAT HEALTH FOUNDATION
The future of feline medicine starts here

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Humane Use of Animals Guidelines

EveryCat Health Foundation (EveryCat) is dedicated to funding scientifically sound, relevant, and humane studies that specifically address the health and well-being of cats. All studies receiving funding must follow EveryCat's Humane Use of Animals Guidelines, which were written to ensure that each and every animal involved in an EveryCat supported project receives compassionate care throughout the study.

Guiding Principles and Required Pertinent Grant Application Information

1. Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Standards.
    a. IACUC. Use of animals should be humane and consistent with applicable laws, regulations and standards established by local governing bodies whose function is the oversight of animals in research. (e.g., Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee or IACUC). If IACUC approval is pending at the time of application and award approval, any awarded funds will not be dispersed until proof of approval has been provided to EveryCat.
    b. IACUC or Equivalent Unavailability. EveryCat requires the review of the proposed animal use by an equivalent institutional review committee/agency or an established collaborating institution's IACUC. As an alternative, EveryCat reserves the right to require the applicant's institution to establish an official animal use review committee, equivalent to an IACUC, approved by EveryCat.
    c. Animal Care. All animal care, husbandry, and IACUC member structures shall at a minimum meet or exceed the guidelines set forth in the U.S. Government's Animal Welfare Act (Title 9 CFA Subchapter A – Animal Welfare[1]) and further required regional and institutional regulations. EveryCat does not look favorably upon inclusion of ancillary data in EveryCat-supported research that includes animal use protocols not in agreement with our guidelines, even if it is obtained using other funding sources.
    d. Feline Environmental Needs, Care, and Handling. EveryCat recognizes that cats are a unique species requiring specific environmental needs and handling that are linked to their physical health, emotional well-being, and behavior. Peer-reviewed Guidelines have been developed outlining the need to create an enriched experience for the welfare of each cat and each investigator should be familiar with the concepts and recommendations regarding the nature and needs of cats outlined in these documents.[2,3,4] Investigators using these concepts in their study should include such a description as part of the Animal Involvement Justification section of their application.
    e. Owner Consent. EveryCat requires informed consent/responsible agency consent in all clinical/research trials when client owned animals are involved. An informed owner/responsible agency consent form of minimum standards should be

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executed by the Principal Investigator and an example of the form provided with the application. In general, the form should include information for owners of alternative options for treatments and that their cat's care will not be diminished by declining or choosing to stop study participation. Owners should also understand the potential for side effects and how potential adverse events will be monitored and managed, including clear statement of their/or institution's financial responsibility for medical management in general, and of any side effects/adverse events.[5]

f. Research, Veterinary, and Care Staff. Investigators and staff who are involved with animal care shall have appropriate qualifications and experience for conducting procedures when live animals are involved per IACUC or institutional protocols. Each investigator on the study shall include in their submitted CV details of their animal care qualifications and experience specific to the proposal.

g. Site visits. EveryCat reserves the right to perform announced or unannounced site visits and/or independent audits for program assessment and/or to verify compliance with proposal stipulations or to investigate concerns dealing with animal welfare issues.

2. Euthanasia. EveryCat will not fund projects that require euthanasia as an endpoint except in extremely rare cases. A rare case exception may be made if it is demonstrated to the EveryCat Board of Directors and Scientific Review Committee that the anticipated results from the study are of potentially overwhelming significance for improving feline health that such means are justified, and meaningful information can be obtained in no other way. As a rule, EveryCat does not look favorably on such requests.

   Humane Euthanasia. EveryCat considers humane euthanasia acceptable when an animal develops unanticipated illness or injury or progressive natural disease that results in pain and suffering that cannot be alleviated by other means. This should not be an anticipated endpoint of a project. The study is expected to contain language allowing monitoring at sufficient intervals to preclude the need for study-related euthanasia. The study should also include language to terminate the study early should severe unexpected adverse events occur.

3. Disease or injury. EveryCat will not fund projects that induce disease except in extremely rare cases. A rare case exception may be made if it is demonstrated to the EveryCat Board of Directors and Scientific Review Committee that the anticipated results from the study are of potentially overwhelming significance for improving feline health that such means are justified, and meaningful information can be obtained in no other way. As a rule, Everycat does not look favorably on such requests.

4. Genetic Guidelines. EveryCat will not fund projects that alter, augment, or clone an animal's heritable genome (germline), whether by breeding or genetic manipulation such

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as gene editing, except in extremely rare cases. A rare case exception may be made if it is demonstrated to the EveryCat Board of Directors and Scientific Review Committee that the anticipated results from the study are of potentially overwhelming significance for improving feline health that such means are justified, and meaningful information can be obtained in no other way. As a rule, EveryCat does not look favorably on such requests.

5. Procedures.
    a. Pain or distress. EveryCat will not fund any project that induces or allows unnecessary pain or distress, other than short-term minor pain or distress that can be controlled by appropriate anesthetics, analgesics, and/or nursing care. Any procedure involving more than transient pain or distress which cannot be alleviated or minimized requires scientific justification. Any EveryCat-funded project must include precautions to ensure that short-term, minor pain and distress are limited. If the project induces disease, injury, pain or distress, the following must be addressed:

        i. The experimental design must be defended
        ii. Information must be provided on the nature of the pain, injury or distress and how it will be monitored, controlled and treated
        iii. Demonstrate that the results anticipated from the project would have such critical significance for improving feline health that such means are justified
        iv. Justify that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives (i.e., alternative models have been thoroughly evaluated)

    b. Invasive Procedures. EveryCat discourages health studies that require unnecessary invasive procedures. If an animal is used in an invasive study, EveryCat may require an assurance (with the principal investigator and institutional signatures) that the animal will not participate in any future invasive studies. A written scientific justification is required if invasive procedures are performed, even if they are considered standard of care. The following must be addressed if an invasive procedure is proposed:

        i. The experimental design must be defended
        ii. Information must be provided on the nature of the invasive procedure
        iii. Demonstrate that the results anticipated from the project would have such critical significance for improving feline health that such means are justified
        iv. Justify that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives (i.e., alternative models have been thoroughly evaluated).

    Examples of permissible invasive procedures include standard medical procedures, such as laparoscopic or endoscopic biopsy, or any procedure such as imaging or

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sample collection requiring general anesthesia (e.g., CSF, bone marrow, MRI). This does not preclude client-owned cats undergoing medically necessary procedures.

c. Samples.

i. Biological Samples. A description of biological samples, tissues, etc. that will be used, where and how they will be acquired, and IACUC approval under which such samples will be/were collected.

ii. Archived Samples. EveryCat reserves the right to request a copy of the application and approval (IACUC) covering the original collection of archived samples.

6. Live Animals. If the project involves live animals, the following should be addressed:

a. Explain the environment and housing conditions in which the animals will live (e.g., address appropriate exercise, enrichment protocols, socialization, veterinary care, space requirements, ambient temperatures, ventilation, etc.).
b. Justify the number of animals to be used in the project to prevent unnecessary replication of research, unnecessary utilization of animals or unnecessary utilization of study funds.
c. Explain how the animals will be acquired (e.g., client-owned, USDA licensed breeder, institutional colony, etc.) and verify that the animals are suitable for the study (i.e., have no physiologic, physical, or pharmacologic issues that would interfere with the results.)
d. Describe the disposition of the animals upon completion of the project:
    i. If adoption, explain the adoption process and what will happen to animals that cannot be placed in homes.
    ii. If euthanasia, provide the following additional information:
        (a) Justify that no alternative can be used to accomplish the project objectives
        (b) Total number of animals that will be euthanized and justification for numbers
        (c) Method of humane euthanasia
        (d) If animals have been purchased specifically for a EveryCat-funded study, reuse of animals is discouraged, and adoption is the preferred disposition at the end of the project whenever possible. Euthanasia or transfer to another research project or program will require the consent of the EveryCat Health Foundation.
        (e) As a rule, EveryCat does not look favorably on the enrollment of colony cats in additional studies.

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References:

1. https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2013-title9-vol1/pdf/CFR-2013-title9-vol1-chapI-subchapA.pdf

2. Rodan I, Sundahl E, et al. AAFP and ISFM Feline-Friendly Handling Guidelines. *J Feline Med Surg*. (2011) 13, 364-375.

3. Carney HC, Little S, et al. AAFP and ISFM Feline-Friendly Nursing Care Guidelines. *J Feline Med Surg*. (2012) 14, 337-349.

4. Ellis SLH, Rodan I, et al. AAFP and ISFM Feline Environmental Needs Guidelines. *J Feline Med Surg*. (2013) 15, 219-230.

5. Page R, Baneux P, Vail D, et al. Conduct, oversight, and ethical considerations of clinical trials in clinical trials in companion animals with cancer: report of a workshop on best practice recommendations. *J Vet Intern Med*. (2016), 30(2), 527-535.