

For Immediate Release

Animal Medical Center Leads Global 10-Year Study to Improve Feline Health

Feline Cardiovascular Risk Study Spans 21 Countries

(New York, N.Y. – May 16, 2018) The Animal Medical Center (AMC) today announced the publication of a landmark research study that identifies how hypertrophic cardiomyopathy - a form of heart disease that can cause sudden death and heart failure in people - is also present in cats and linked to serious health problems in these pets. Termed “The REVEAL Study,” this collaborative, international long-term investigation involved 50 veterinary centers in 21 countries in an effort to learn how this disease impacts the health of cats over more than a decade. Published in the *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, the lead author, Philip Fox, DVM, MS, DACVIM/ECVIM (Cardiology), DACVECC, is the head of Cardiology at the Animal Medical Center and Director of its Caspary Research Institute.

The REVEAL Study reports that hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a global feline health problem and estimates that it might affect millions of pet cats. Although the disease has been known by veterinarians for nearly 50 years, almost nothing was known about its epidemiology until now.

“The REVEAL Study documented that hypertrophic cardiomyopathy puts cats at considerable risk to develop congestive heart failure, arterial blood clots, and cardiac death,” said Dr. Fox. “Heart failure or blood clots occur in nearly one-third of affected cats and overall, one in every three or four affected cats experiences a cardiac-related death. This information underscores the need to develop updated perspectives in feline cardiac health, including novel health care treatment strategies that can extend the life span of pets living with this disease.”

Key Study Findings

- Heart failure or blood clots occurred in nearly one-third of cats afflicted with feline hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Cardiovascular-related death occurred in approximately 30% of the 1,008 cats with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy (a form of the disease) did not result in shorter life expectancy or any greater complications compared to the non-obstructive form of this disease

“Research intended to learn more about naturally-occurring diseases affecting companion animals is at the core of AMC’s mission because it enables us to improve the quality of life and extend the life span of these dear pets,” said Kathryn Coyne, Chief Executive Officer at AMC. “This study is an important step in improving feline health and AMC is so proud to be part of such a groundbreaking, global study. We thank the Morris Animal Foundation and WINN Feline Foundation for their support of this work.”



“This study is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication from both Dr. Fox and his many collaborators around the globe and Morris Animal Foundation is proud to be a part of this project,” said Kelly Diehl, DVM, DACVIM, Senior Scientific Programs and Communications Advisor at Morris Animal Foundation. “We know the results will contribute significantly towards improving the health of our feline companions.”

About Animal Medical Center

The Animal Medical Center (AMC) is the world’s largest non-profit animal hospital with 100+ veterinarians providing the highest quality medical care across 17 specialties. AMC’s pioneering clinical research advances veterinary knowledge, and our education programs train the next generation of veterinary leaders and provide pet owners with quality pet health information. AMC is proud to offer our services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To learn more visit www.amcny.org.

Reference

- (1) *International collaborative study to assess cardiovascular risk and evaluate long-term health in cats with preclinical hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and apparently healthy cats: The REVEAL Study*, Fox PR, Keene BW, Lamb K, et al., *Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine*, 2018;00:1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jvim.15122>

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