



# WINN NEWS

FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF ALL CATS

Spring 2005

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The Winn Feline Foundation continues to grow in stature with the cat lover as well as with veterinarians and breeders. Of particular note is that the Cat Fancier's Assn continues to support its feline health organization and contributes to the Foundation's operations. Winn is on the Veterinary Information Network with both information and discussion, and participates in Symposia and programs at Vet Conferences and on Radio and TV.

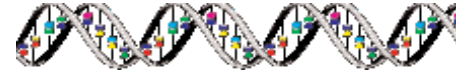
However, people are heard to say that the Winn Foundation has "plenty of money and does not need any more" as a rationale to give their hard-earned funds to other groups. This idea, "Winn does not need it!" comes from both clubs and individuals. Let us be very clear about the consequences of this thinking to the future of The Winn Feline Foundation.

The Foundation has been proud of its efforts to use all donations for feline studies. We on the Board of Directors join cat lovers everywhere who believe that the health of the pedigreed cat, as well as the health of all cats, is our responsibility. Each year the interest income from the endowment helps to cover operating expenses as well as pay for some research. The rest of the funding comes primarily from individuals and clubs that are committed to the Winn mission. This year, Winn received far fewer donations, especially from CFA clubs. This decrease in donations was not due to the struggle of some clubs to stay afloat, but rather the notion by some clubs that donations to Winn are not needed. As a direct consequence, therefore, Winn was able to fund fewer studies this year.

Please remember that Winn is the only organization that exclusively funds feline studies; cats - all cats -- need The Winn Feline Foundation. Veterinarians and veterinary school researchers need Winn to have money available for research. Cat lovers, whether owners or breeders, need Winn to continue its work for the health of their pets. The new genetic test for PKD is a direct result of the partnership of Winn, breeders, and clubs to lick this disease.

In order to continue to fund the number and quality of the programs that come to Winn, the Foundation must find a way to generate additional support through corporate sponsorship while receiving the continued support of clubs and individuals. Needs include printing costs for brochures, postage for correspondence, co-sponsorship of feline health conferences for both researchers and breeders, personnel to answer questions about Winn and to answer invitations to promote the organization and speak on its behalf. The Foundation has expenses that increase just as those of any other organization. Winn does not sell a "product" to offset those expenses. The "product" is the funding that becomes available to the Foundation through donations. When you think about Winn, remember that your donation is absolutely necessary to the organization. Without the financial help of club and individuals, The Winn Feline Foundation cannot fund meaningful feline health research nor provide the other beneficial programs that breeders, owners, and those in feline health have come to expect.

*Hilary Helmrich,  
President*



## WINN RESEARCHERS MAKE IMPORTANT BREAKTHROUGH - GENETIC TESTING FOR PKD IN PERSIANS IS NOW AVAILABLE!

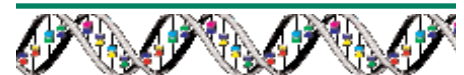
*by Betty White*

Perhaps one of the biggest successes in the partnership of Winn with feline health researchers was realized this past year when Dr. Leslie Lyons of UC Davis announced the successful development of a genetic test for the gene responsible for Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) in Persians. Up to now, the only way to diagnose this malady in a living cat was by ultrasound. This involved equipment of a specific type, operated by an experienced veterinarian. It was also necessary for the cat to be at least 10 months old for an accurate diagnosis. A genetic test was the hope of veterinarians and breeders/owners alike, and Winn help fund the research leading to the discovery. Now kittens can be tested as early as 8 weeks of age, allowing breeders to make responsible decisions in their breeding program and gradually eliminate the disease from the Persian breed.

Testing is currently available from the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (VGL), a nonprofit laboratory with the Sch of Veterinary Medicine, University of California at Davis. VGL has over a decade of DNA based testing experience. Proceeds are directed back into research and test development. For details about testing, please visit:

[www.vgl.ucdavis.edu](http://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu) or  
call 530-752-2211

For more information, please visit Dr. Leslie Lyons website:  
[www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/PHR/lyonsden](http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/PHR/lyonsden)





## Vice President, Susan Little, DVM Speaks at Western Veterinary Conference.

Dr. Little worked with columnist, cat-lover, and radio broadcaster, Steve Dale to coordinate a symposium on FIP (feline infectious peritonitis) for practicing veterinarians. They brought together some of the leading researchers working on this frustrating disease. Sharing information gained from the many studies funded by Winn is important to improving the care our cats receive when they visit their own veterinarians.

One of the attending veterinarians wrote: *"Hello. I just wanted to pass along some praise for Dr. Susan Little. I attended the WVC last week in Las Vegas and heard her lectures and I thought she did an outstanding job. With such a frustrating and confusing disease like FIP, it was great to have it explained so well, especially by someone who sees clients and patients like me and is not just doing research. Please thank Dr. Little for her time and efforts and I would really encourage her to speak at conferences in the future - she's a real asset!"*

*Cheers, Brandon Brooks, DVM"*

## Recent Grant News --

**Eight studies funded for a total of \$110,751**

The Winn Feline Foundation was pleased to receive proposal from veterinary researchers around the world who were interested in improving feline health. Out of over 40 proposals, our team of outstanding veterinary consultants helped the Foundation selected the best eight studies for funding. We look forward to seeing the results of these studies and being able to share them with both the veterinary community as well as breeders.

## NEW STUDIES

**A Blood Test for Heart Disease in Cats:** *Phillip F. Solter, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVP, D. David Sisson, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), Mark A. Oyama, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology). College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois; \$12,800.*

**Improving Our Knowledge of the Feline Genome:** *William J. Murphy, PhD., Texas A & M University, \$15,000.*

**A Better Understanding of a Common Cancer Drug:** *Amy LeBlanc, DVM, DACVIM(Oncology), Claudia A. Kirk, DVM, PhD, DACVIM, DACVN, and Sherry Cox, PhD, University of Tennessee. \$10,445.*

**An Investigation into the Causes of Feline Hyperthyroidism:** *Nutritional and Environmental Influences on the Development of Feline Hyperthyroidism. Cynthia R. Ward, VMD, PhD, DACVIM, University of Pennsylvania. \$13,800.*

**A New Approach to Treatment of a Common Feline Cancer:** *Laurel E. Williams, DVM, ACVIM (Oncology), North Carolina State University. \$15,000.*

**Evaluation of a New Clotting Test in Cats:** *Tracy Stokol, BVSc, PhD, DACVP, Marjory Brooks, DVM, Hollis Erb, DVM, PhD. Cornell University. \$13,710.*

**Evaluation of the Best Method for Obtaining Intestinal Biopsies:** *Sarah E. Evans, DVM, Jennifer J. Bonczynski, DVM, DACVS, John Broussard, DVM, DACVIM, Eveline Han, VMD, DACVIM, Keith Baer, DVM, DACVP, Animal Medical Center. \$15,000.*

**RICKY FUND STUDIES** *(a fund for the study of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy in cats established by Steve Dale in memory of his cat, Ricky)*

**A New Drug to Treat Heart Disease in Cats:** *Mark Kittleson, DVM, PhD, DACVIM (Cardiology), Kristin MacDonald, DVM, DACVIM (Cardiology), University of California, Davis. \$14,996.*

Thank you for your continuing support of the Winn Feline Foundation. Your donations will allow us to continue our important efforts to improve the health and well-being of all cats.

**The Winn Feline Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Participant in the National OFC, # 2602**

*Donations to Winn maybe tax deductible.*

**I want to help WINN improve the health of all cats!!**

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

Endowment Fund \_\_\_\_\_ or

General Donation \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of\* \_\_\_\_\_

A Memorial to\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please inform the following individual(s) of my memorial/in honor donation:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

Please provide us with your name & address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

City State Zip

Please mail this coupon with your donation to:

**The Winn Feline Foundation**  
1805 Atlantic Avenue  
PO Box 1005  
Manasquan, NJ 08736-0805

**Thank you!!**

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[www.WinnFelineHealth.org](http://www.WinnFelineHealth.org)