

# ANIMAL MEDICAL CENTER

510 EAST 62ND STREET, NEW YORK, NY 10020

(212) 838-8100

## Transmission of Infectious Disease by Blood Donor Cats

Ensuring a safe blood supply is an essential component of providing an effective transfusion. A recent publication in JAVMA co-authored by Dr. Ann Hohenhaus of AMC's Jaqua Transfusion Medicine Service highlights potential infectious diseases transmitted by blood transfusion in the cat.

Using PCR technology, blood donor cats around the country, including AMC's blood donors, were surveyed for infection with *Mycoplasma haemofelis* and "Candidatus *Mycoplasma haemominutum*" (both organisms reclassified from *Hemobartonella felis*) as well as *Bartonella* sp, *Ehrlichia* sp and *Anaplasma phagocytophilum* (reclassified from *Ehrlichia phagocytophila*). Approximately one fifth of community source cats or cats that had known flea infestation tested positive for one or more of the infectious agents.

The ACVIM consensus statement "Canine and feline blood donor screening for infectious disease" (J Vet Intern Med 2005;19;135-142), co-authored by Dr. Nyssa Reine, also of the Jaqua Transfusion Medicine Service recommends all blood donor cats be screened for *Mycoplasma*, *Ehrlichia* and *Anaplasma* as well as FeLV and FIV at least annually. Drs. Reine and Hohenhaus also recommend screening cats in the New York Metropolitan area for FeLV, FIV, *Bartonella*, *Ehrlichia* and *Anaplasma* but not *Cytoxauzoon felis*. If your clinic has a blood donor cat, it may be at risk for acquiring blood borne parasites if it has access to the outdoors or acquires fleas or ticks from an infected clinic patient. Ideally, blood donor cats should not be allowed outdoors and should receive monthly flea and tick prophylaxis to minimize the risk of transfusion transmitted infection.

The health of The AMC's blood supply is our priority. Donor cats are maintained in a healthy, free flea environment and undergo frequent routine physical exams and blood work to promote safe blood transfusions for your patients that are here to receive them.

The Animal Medical Center is committed to partnering with you as an extension of your practice. Be assured that we will not vaccinate or perform any wellness services for referred patients, and that we always communicate on a regular basis with you regarding the status of your patient's condition. Also remember that you may call our priority Emergency/Critical Care Hotline at (212 329-8616), seven days a week, noon to midnight, to speak directly with our experienced Critical Care staff.

The contents of this notice are for informational and educational purposes only. This notice is not intended to substitute for professional veterinary advice, diagnosis, or treatment. The responsibility for assuring the health of animals remains with treating veterinarians, and must be based upon their professional experience, knowledge of the patient, and communication with the pet owner. The Animal Medical Center assumes no liability or responsibility for any diagnosis or treatment made in reliance of this notice. To request not to receive future faxes from the Animal Medical Center, please call 212 329-8890.