

## Relevance of feline interferon omega for clinical improvement and reduction of concurrent viral excretion in retrovirus infected cats from a rescue shelter

Solange Gil [a,\\*](#),<sup>1</sup>, Rodolfo O. Leal [a](#),<sup>1</sup>, Ana Duarte [a](#), David McGahie [b](#), Nuno Sepúlveda [c,d](#), Inês Siborro [a](#), Joana Cravo [a](#), Clara Cartaxeiro [a](#), Luís M. Tavares [a](#)

a) Centro de Investigação Interdisciplinar em Sanidade Animal (CIISA), Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária, Technical University of Lisbon (TULisbon), Av. Universidade Técnica, 1300-477 Lisbon, Portugal

b) Virbac, 13e rue LID – BP 27 F 06511 Carros Cedex, France

c) London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Keppel Street, London, WC1E7HT, United Kingdom

d) Centro de Estatística e Aplicações da Universidade de Lisboa, FCUL, Bloco C6 – Piso 4, Campo Grande, 1749-016 Lisboa, Portugal

Feline Immunodeficiency (FIV) and Feline Leukemia (FeLV) viruses are common infectious agents in stray cats and shelter environments. Recombinant feline interferon- $\omega$  (rFeIFN $\omega$ ) has shown an antiviral action not only against FIV and FeLV but also against herpesvirus (FHV-1) and calicivirus (FCV).

Sixteen naturally infected FIV/FeLV cats were followed during rFeIFN $\omega$  therapy in order to monitor clinical signs and to correlate with excretion of concomitant viruses (FCV, FHV-1, feline coronavirus (FCoV) and parvovirus (FPV)). Cats were submitted to clinical evaluations and concomitant virus excretion assessment.

Comparing D0–D65, 10/16 cats improved clinical scores. Of the 10 cats positive for FHV-1 on D0, 4 were negative and 6 reduced viral loads. Of the 11 FCoV positive cats, 9 reduced viral loads. The 13 FCV positive cats and the FPV positive cat were negative on D65.

In conclusion, rFeIFN $\omega$  improves clinical signs and reduces concurrent viral excretion in naturally infected retroviral cats.

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