

## **Proposal to add an amendment to Felis Britannica Veterinary rules to allow a fast response for new and emerging serious infectious disease, and for the identification of FCoV-23 mutation in U.K.**

### Addition

1.5 Should any cat(s) owned by or living with the exhibitor be diagnosed with Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) **no cat from the household must attend shows, visit stud or accept outside queens** until a month after either the treatment course for FIP is completed or death from FIP.

1.6 If a cat has been imported from a country deemed to be at high risk\* for FCoV-23 or serious infectious disease, **no cat from the household must attend shows** for one month after the cat has arrived. The imported cat should not visit stud /accept outside queens until one month after arrival.

\*high risk areas to be published on Felis Britannica's website and updated following veterinary advice.

## **4 GENERAL INFECTION PREVENTION MEASURES**

4.1 Show Pens, podium, teasers and tables should be thoroughly disinfected between cats, the disinfectant should be effective against as a minimum, FCoV, Calicivirus & Feline Parvovirus.

4.1.2 If teasers cannot be adequately disinfected, either the exhibitors teaser should be used or single use teasers provided.

4.2 Judges and stewards should be provided with hand sanitiser effective against as a minimum, FCoV, Calicivirus & Feline Parvovirus to decontaminate their hands between cats.

4.3 Cats should be penned a minimum of 1.5 meters away from each other if a physical barrier is not in place to mitigate the risk of droplet exposure.

4.4 Where a pen / table / podium is contaminated with faecal matter this should be thoroughly cleaned and preferably not used for the duration of the show.

### **Rationale**

A new strain of Feline Coronavirus has been identified, which has provisionally been called FCoV-23. FCoV-23 was first identified in Cyprus, this new strain is a combination of FCoV and the highly pathogenic Canine Coronavirus (pCCoV). FCoV-23 appears to be more virulent than existing FCoV due to the fast spread across Cyprus with a higher conversion rate from FCoV-23 to FIP. The amendment of the rules allow fast response to any emerging serious infectious disease.

FIP is usually not spread between cats, however there is new evidence that suggests that cats can spread it to other cats where FCoV-23 was the causal virus. This is likely through the faecal-oral route transmission route.

The general infection prevention measures documents good practice to reduce commonly spread feline pathogens.

### **References**

[https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/394450456/231110\\_Imported\\_case\\_for\\_FIP\\_final.pdf](https://www.pure.ed.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/394450456/231110_Imported_case_for_FIP_final.pdf)

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-and-blog/news-article/case-of-feline-coronavirus-identified-in-theuk>