SURVEY URL: https://eSurv.org?u=Felinesurvey

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION SHEET GUIDANCE 1.0 7/15

Section A: The Research Project

1. **Title of project:** Development of a feline chronic pain score by comparing owner assessed behavioural indicators of osteoarthritic and normal felines.

2. **Brief summary of research.**

   Objective: To develop a feline chronic pain score.
   Rationale: 90% of cats over the age of 12 years, have shown signs of degenerative joint disease and 61% of cats over the age of 6 years, have shown osteoarthritis in at least one joint. These figures become a greater percentage with age. This shows that osteoarthritis is highly prevalent in aging cats however diagnosis for this is still poor.
   Feline chronic pain scoring is under-researched and there is less owner and veterinary awareness and recognition of this condition. This project enables the initial steps in creating a feline chronic pain score based on owner perception.
   More research in this area is needed to provide early recognition from the owner and veterinary surgeon. This will allow advanced pain management for feline chronic pain which will enable us to improve the feline's quality of life. This will be through appropriate interventions from analgesia monitoring and pain management when at home or hospitalised.

3. **Purpose of the study**

   I am currently in my 4th year of B.Sc. in veterinary Nursing and Applied Animal Behaviour and this study will be for my dissertation.

4. **Name of your Supervisor**
   Sam McMillan

5. **Why have I been asked to participate?**
   The criteria for my study is:

   Owners with cats aged between 1-6 years not diagnosed with osteoarthritis and owners with cats of any ages diagnosed with osteoarthritis.

6. **How many people will be asked to participate?**

   For my study I need 67 owners with cats aged between 1-6 years not diagnosed with osteoarthritis and 67 owners with cats diagnosed with osteoarthritis.

7. **What are the likely benefits of taking part?**

The main benefit of this study will be educational as it is an undergraduate research project.
It will hopefully provide more insight into assessing feline behavioural indicators for feline chronic pain.

8. **Can I refuse to take part?**

All participants can refuse to take part.
It is possible to withdraw your data up until you have submitted the questionnaire.

9. **Has the study got ethical approval?**

The study has ethical approval from DREP (Departmental Research Ethics Panel) at Anglia Ruskin University.

10. **Has the organisation where you are carrying out the research given permission?**

All veterinary practices assisting with client recruitment for my study have been asked permission from the owner/manager however, it is up to the individual if they would like to take part in my research.

11. **If your research falls under specific legislation**

The research complies with The Data Protection Act (1998).

12. **Contact for further information**

Main contact: Hayley Theobald: Hayley.Theobald@student.anglia.ac.uk
Mobile number: 07807333503
You can also contact if needed the supervisor through email
Sam McMillan: SMcMillan@col-westanglia.ac.uk
College of West Anglia: 01223 860701 then proceed to the veterinary nursing department.

Section B: You're Participation in the Research Project

1. **What will I be asked to do?**

Before participation you will need to read both the participant information sheet and the consent form. This will then need to be signed to state you agree and understand what you are participating it. The questionnaire will be based on behavioural indicators of your cat and osteoarthritic cat owners will be asked to compare their cat's behaviour to when they were healthy (at 2 years of age). There will be a paper version of the questionnaire available, this will include a prepaid envelope with the address of the author, if needed. Once this is completed you will not need to do anything else or be contacted.

2. **Will my participation in the study be kept confidential?**

All data collected will be anonymous. The only person who will have access to the consent forms will be the researcher (Hayley Theobald). Consent forms will be kept in a locked filing cabinet separate from the data.
The only people who will have access to any data are:
Hayley Theobald: Researcher
Sam McMillan: Supervisor
This study will comply with The Data Protection Act (1998).

3. **Will I be reimbursed travel expenses?**

There will be no requirement for extra travel as clients will be approached whilst in the veterinary practice.

4. **Are there any possible disadvantages or risks to taking part?**

The possible disadvantages/risks in taking part in this research is shown in the risk assessment below. This was carried out by the researcher. The agreement/consent to participate in the study does not affect the participant's legal rights.

Subject of assessment (May be an activity, hazard or relate to an individual) **Research title:** Development of a feline chronic pain score by comparing owner assessed behavioural indicators of osteoarthritic and normal felines. **Location**: questionnaires for owners to complete at home- practices not identified yet. **Dates:** August 2015-April 2016.	**RA conducted by:** Hayley Theobald	**Date Conducted:** 20/3/2015	**RA ref no:** Htfle/march/15

List the risk/s involved or describe the hazard

1. Strains to the owner/researcher because of the computer usage.
2. Injuries due to driving.
3. Confidential information being leaked from owner/researcher.
4. The researcher will be working alone therefore she will be more vulnerable.
5. The welfare of the owner/researcher during the study

Matrix **LOW**

1. Regular breaks should be taken by the owner and researcher. This should be 5-10 minutes every hour. Good posture should be maintained whilst on the computer and the screen should be placed at eye level.
2. The researcher must take appropriate breaks whilst driving, and the car must be checked to make sure it is safe to drive (water, oil, recent service and mot, car insurance) and travel should be minimised where possible.
3. Application for ethical approval from the Departmental Research Ethics Panel (DREP) of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU).
   This study will complies with The Data Protection Act (1998).
   The Anglia Ruskin University email address will be used.
   No confidential information will be asked.
   All data collected will be anonymous.
4. The researcher must carry a phone at all times.
5. Application for ethical approval from the Departmental Research Ethics Panel (DREP) at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU).
   A pilot study will be performed of this study.
   The participant will need to read the participant information sheet and consent form. They will then need sign the consent form to state they agree to take part in the study and understand the information given.

Revised Risk Level **LOW**

Risk assessment verified by:

Risk Assessment issued to the following:

5. **Is it possible to withdraw at any time, and how?**

It will be possible to withdraw your data from the study up until you have submitted the questionnaire.
You do not have to answer any questions in the questionnaire that you do not wish to or feel uncomfortable doing so.

6. **Whether there are any special precautions you must take before, during or after taking part in the study.**

There are no special precautions that need to be undertaken before, during or after taking part in the study.

7. **What will happen to any information or data that are collected from you?**

All consent forms will be kept in a locked filing cabinet.
Data for this study will be stored on excel on a password protected computer and all paper copies will be transferred to the computer and then shredded. After the study all data provided will be destroyed. This study will comply with The Data Protection Act (1998).

PLEASE KEEP THIS FOR YOUR RECORDS