UC DAVIS
VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dear [informal salutation],

At the Center for Companion Animal Health, we are tackling some of the toughest medical problems cats face throughout their lives.

Our Feline Endowment, and supporters like you, have been pivotal to this work, helping us research, diagnose and develop treatments for diseases like feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) and many others. We also helped the Koret Shelter Medicine Program implement the Million Cat Challenge nationwide, which so far has saved some two million shelter cats from euthanasia.

Two of our current studies look at helping the most vulnerable of all cats, orphaned shelter kittens, with common life-threatening problems.

We now have 46 active research projects dedicated to improving cat health. Two of our current studies look at helping the most vulnerable of all cats, orphaned shelter kittens, with infectious upper respiratory disease (IURD) and diarrhea, both common life-threatening problems.

IURD often results from exposure to the feline herpes virus (FHV-1) in the shelter environment. The disease manifests in the lungs and eyes, where it can cause corneal ulcers leading to eye removal. Researchers at CCAH are testing an antiviral drug called Famciclovir that reduces the duration and severity of IURD-associated eye disease in kittens, improving their chances for a long normal life.

Like IURD, diarrhea is common in shelter kittens. There is limited information regarding its causes, and standard treatments are often ineffective. Administering antibiotics can be risky because they can actually make the diarrhea worse and cause antibiotic resistance. Drs. Stanley Marks and Karen Vernau are conducting a clinical trial determining the different causes of diarrhea and testing a probiotic that can be used as an alternative to antibiotics leading to a safe, cost-effective therapy in kittens with this illness.

You can help us develop medical breakthroughs like these that create a healthier, happier world for the animals we love so much. Join us and support the incredible, dedicated researchers at the Center for Companion Animal Health today.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Kent, MAS, DVM, DACVIM, DACVR
Director, Center for Companion Animal Health

P.S. Please support our important research today at **give.ucdavis.edu/go/CCAHwinter.** Or, if you are considering a legacy gift to help animals, please call (530) 752-7024.

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