



The Diggles Charitable Trust

reg. Charity No: 1143055

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Patron: Lady Mary Mumford

27/10/2013

Dear Dr. Addie,

I am chairwoman of the above charity. The main aim of our constitution is to assist secondary degree veterinary students with their tuition fees. The charity has a smallholding in Diggle accommodating an acreage of 600 trees and a semi wetlands. However, on referral from vets and the RSPCA, we also provide long term care for 'sick', injured, traumatised and elderly cats that cannot be re-homed. As these cats enter our enclosed environment they are consequently screened for FIV and FeLV.

In August, 2012, one of our cats became ill. The enclosed poem chronicles the events of the illness. Liam Atkinson, a heart specialist from Woodcroft Veterinary Centre has also been involved in the case. In June 2013, Prue Neath from Oakwood Referrals performed a successful chylothorax operation. However, during the subsequent three months after the operation, symptoms, classic of FIP emerged and at the beginning of October, we lost Holly.

As previously mentioned all our cats are screened – a simple, quick blood test that determines the presence of a retrovirus causing FIV and FeLV. I am unaware of a similar blood test to detect the presence of a corona virus that is capable of mutation to cause FIP. Is there such a screening available?

As a worldwide authority on FIP, I would be grateful if you could take time to supply the answer as it is vital that any cat entering our environment is free from disease thus not endangering the rest of the colony. Sadly, our other ten cats are now at risk from FIP.

Thanking you,

Kathleen Pearson Chairwoman.

Cc Liam Atkinson Woodcroft
Prue Neath Oakwood
Ann Mee Manchester Vets