

# The Story of One Family's Fight With Feline Infectious Peritonitis

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating disease that affects cats of all ages, breeds, and lifestyles. There is no cure for FIP, and the mortality rate is nearly 100%. But one family is fighting back against this deadly disease, and they are raising awareness and funds to help other families who are facing the same heartbreak.



## Achilles: The Story of One Family's Fight With Feline Infectious Peritonitis by Gary D. Borich

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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The Smith family's nightmare began in January 2020, when their beloved cat, Mittens, started showing signs of illness. Mittens was a healthy and happy cat, so the Smiths were alarmed when she suddenly became lethargic and started losing weight.

The Smiths took Mittens to the vet, and after a series of tests, she was diagnosed with FIP. The vet gave the Smiths the grim news that there was

no cure for FIP and that Mittens would likely die within a few months.

The Smiths were heartbroken. They had never heard of FIP before, and they were shocked to learn how deadly it was. They couldn't believe that their beloved Mittens was going to die.

The Smiths refused to give up on Mittens. They began researching FIP and looking for any possible treatment options. They found out about a new experimental treatment called GS-441524, which had shown promise in clinical trials.

The Smiths contacted the manufacturer of GS-441524 and asked if Mittens could be enrolled in the clinical trial. The manufacturer agreed, and Mittens began treatment in February 2020.

The treatment was long and difficult, but Mittens tolerated it well. She started to show signs of improvement after a few months, and by the end of the year, she was in remission.

The Smiths are grateful that Mittens is alive and well today. They know that they are lucky to have found a treatment that worked for her, and they want to help other families who are facing the same heartbreak.

The Smiths have started a foundation called the Mittens Fund to raise awareness and funds for FIP research. They are working to ensure that other families don't have to go through the same pain that they did.

The Mittens Fund has already raised over \$1 million for FIP research. The money has been used to fund clinical trials of new treatments, and to support research into the causes and prevention of FIP.

The Smiths are hopeful that one day there will be a cure for FIP. They are working tirelessly to raise awareness of the disease and to fund research that will lead to a cure.

## **What is FIP?**

Feline infectious peritonitis is a viral disease that affects cats of all ages, breeds, and lifestyles. The virus that causes FIP is called the feline coronavirus (FCoV).

FCoV is a common virus, and most cats are exposed to it at some point in their lives. However, most cats do not develop FIP. Only about 10% of cats who are exposed to FCoV will develop the disease.

The reason why some cats develop FIP and others do not is not fully understood. However, it is thought that certain factors, such as stress, genetics, and the cat's immune system, may play a role.

## **Symptoms of FIP**

The symptoms of FIP can vary depending on the form of the disease. There are two main forms of FIP: wet FIP and dry FIP.

### **Wet FIP**

Wet FIP is the more common form of the disease. It is characterized by the accumulation of fluid in the abdomen or chest cavity.

Symptoms of wet FIP include:

- Lethargy
- Weight loss

- Loss of appetite
- Abdominal distension
- Difficulty breathing

## **Dry FIP**

Dry FIP is less common than wet FIP. It is characterized by the formation of granulomas, which are small nodules of inflammation, in the body's organs.

Symptoms of dry FIP can include:

- Lethargy
- Weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Neurological signs, such as seizures or circling
- Ocular signs, such as uveitis or blindness

## **Diagnosis of FIP**

FIP can be difficult to diagnose, as there is no single test that is 100% accurate. However, there are a number of tests that can be used to help diagnose the disease, including:

- Physical examination
- Blood tests
- Radiographs (X-rays)
- Ultrasound

- PCR test

## **Treatment of FIP**

There is no cure for FIP. However, there are a number of treatments that can help to alleviate the symptoms of the disease and improve the cat's quality of life.

Treatments for FIP include:

- Anti-inflammatory drugs
- Antiviral drugs
- Immunosuppressive drugs
- Supportive care, such as fluid therapy and nutrition

## **Prevention of FIP**

There is no sure way to prevent FIP. However, there are a number of things that cat owners can do to reduce the risk of their cat developing the disease, including:

- Vaccinate your cat against FCoV
- Keep your cat indoors
- Avoid contact with other cats who are sick
- Stress
- Genetics
- The cat's immune system

## The Mittens Fund

The Mittens Fund is a foundation that was started by the Smith family to raise awareness and funds for FIP research. The fund has already raised over \$1 million for FIP research, and the money has been used to fund clinical trials of new treatments and to support research into the causes and prevention of FIP.

The Smiths are hopeful that one day there will be a cure for FIP. They are working tirelessly to raise awareness of the disease and to fund research that will lead to a cure.

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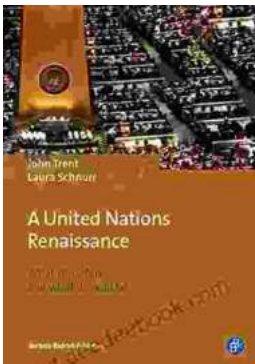
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