

MARPOLE VETERINARY PRACTICE

Small animal medicine · surgery · farm visits by arrangement

14 High Street, Marpole · 01XXX 442910 · ruth@marpolevets.co.uk

Dr. R. Pennycook MRCVS · Dr. J. Allerton BVSc MRCVS · Practice partners

Sandra Whitcombe
Trial Co-ordinator
Clone Cat Protocol - Field Trials Division
Copy Cats Programme
Cohort Returns Office
PO Box 4180, Vexley

4th October 2031

Sandra,

Q3 pack attached - five reports this quarter, all behind this note.
Ref numbers as usual on the headers.

I'll be honest with you, this round of clones is presenting a bit on the unusual side. Nothing I can put a finger on clinically - all five cohort kittens checked out fine on the table - but the owners are saying some genuinely odd things, and I'd rather flag it than not. Probably just a small-sample blip with the latest batch, and I do appreciate cloned animals aren't really my area, but I thought you'd want to see them together rather than spread across three envelopes.

Anything you can tell me about how the trial is going generally? It's quite hard to know whether we're seeing what we ought to be seeing, if you follow.

Will you be at the BVA conference in March? It's been an age.
Coffee on me if you're there.

All the best,



Dr. Ruth Pennycook MRCVS
encl. 5 trial returns



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Date of visit: 12th September 2031
Patient: "Mr. Whiskerington" (M, neutered, est. 14 wks, clone-cohort, Marpole site)
Owner: Mrs. Edith Kettering, 7 Apple Lane, Marpole
Clone Cat Protocol Ref: CCP-MAR-031-008

Presenting concern

Mrs. Kettering attended without appointment with the kitten on her lap in a knitted bag. Her completed trial questionnaire marks "no concerns" throughout sections 1 to 5. Under "Other," she has written: "Lovely cat - just wondering if perhaps the purr is supposed to go up and down? My last one did."

On questioning, she confirmed the kitten purrs continuously and at one pitch when handled, and that she has not observed it blink in the four days she has had it.

On examination

Patient bright, alert, well-presented. No discharge from eyes or nares. Pupillary light reflex normal bilaterally. Nictitating membrane not engaged in approximately twelve minutes of close observation.

Auscultation of the chest revealed a strong, regular, single-frequency purr that did not modulate on petting, on offering food, or on lifting the patient onto the scales. Coat condition good. Weight within range.

Assessment

No clinical abnormality detected. The behavioural observations as reported by the owner are noted, but cannot be attributed to a physical cause on examination today.

Recommendation

Advised owner to monitor and re-attend if any change. No medication issued.

- R.P.

999
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Date of visit: 19th September 2031
Patient: "Pickle" (F, est. 16 wks, clone-cohort,
Marpole site)
Owner: Mrs. Joanne Allbright, 3 Field View, Marpole
Clone Cat Protocol Ref: CCP-MAR-031-011

Presenting concern

Owner attended for the patient's scheduled fortnightly trial checkup. The concern below was raised by the owner during the routine examination.

The owner's questionnaire was returned with handwritten annotations in the margins (transcribed in full and attached). The recurring concern is that the kitten will, without apparent trigger, fix its gaze on a single point on the kitchen ceiling and remain still for forty minutes or longer, after which it resumes normal behaviour. The owner has timed three such episodes this week. Under "Other," Mrs. Allbright has written: "the kids have started staring at the ceiling too. please advise."

On examination

Patient ambulatory and responsive. Cervical range of motion normal. No nystagmus. Cranial nerves grossly unremarkable. Patient demonstrated a normal startle response when keys were dropped on the consulting-room floor. The reported staring behaviour was not observed during the consultation.

Assessment

No neurological signs evident today. Behaviour as described by the owner not reproduced in clinic.

Recommendation

Advised the owner to attempt to record an episode on her phone, if possible, and to re-attend should the episodes increase in frequency or duration. Reassured re. kitten development. Suggested distraction (toys) when episodes occur.

- R.P.

checked the ceiling,
nothing there.

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Date of visit: 24th September 2031
Patient: "Toaster" (M, neutered, est. 15 wks,
clone-cohort, Marpole site)
Owner: Master Daniel Halloran (14),
c/o Mr. P. Halloran, 22 The Crescent, Marpole
Clone Cat Protocol Ref: CCP-MAR-031-014

Presenting concern

Owner's questionnaire completed by Mr. Halloran on his son's behalf. Each answer is prefaced with the phrase "my son says - and I quote -" in the same hand. The presenting concern is a single observed incident: the kitten reportedly hissed at its own reflection in a mirror for approximately ninety seconds, then sat down and "sulked" for the remainder of the evening. Verbatim from the form: "he says the cat 'lost an argument with itself.' I don't know what to do with that information."

On examination

Patient cooperative throughout. No otoscopic abnormality. Visual tracking normal - patient followed a pen-torch through full range bilaterally. No discharge, no facial asymmetry. A brief mirror-presentation in the consulting room produced no response from the patient, who turned away after approximately three seconds.

Assessment

No aural or optical pathology. A single behavioural incident, not reproducible in clinic.

Recommendation

Reassured the owner that the incident is likely a one-off. Advised against deliberately re-presenting mirrors at home in order to test the response. Re-attend if the behaviour recurs.

- R.P.

second mirror
incident this month.

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Date of visit: 28th September 2031
Patient: "Susan" (F, est. 13 wks, clone-cohort, Marpole site)
Owner: Miss Helen Thorne, Flat 2, 18 Riverside, Marpole
Clone Cat Protocol Ref: CCP-MAR-031-017

Presenting concern

Owner attended at the end of morning surgery. The owner's questionnaire was completed cleanly and in good order, with no concerns indicated. The "Other" box, however, contains a single line, written in a heavier hand and underlined: "I have not slept properly in four days. Please."

On questioning, Miss Thorne stated that the kitten remains awake at night and watches her sleep from the foot of the bed. She further reports that when she has woken during the night, the kitten has been observed already looking at her, regardless of which way she had been facing.

On examination

Patient presented as alert, calm and attentive throughout. Coat, weight and dentition all consistent with age. No clinical findings. Owner appeared visibly fatigued and was tearful during the consultation.

Assessment

No abnormality in the patient. Owner welfare a more pressing concern than the patient's.

Recommendation

Discussed practical options: closing the bedroom door at night, or leaving the kitten with a friend or family member for a short period. Owner declined the latter, stating she "didn't want to upset it." Provided contact details for Marpole GP surgery and gently advised follow-up there.

- R.P.

recommended she take the cat
to a friend's for the week,
she said she didn't want
to upset it,

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CLONE CAT PROTOCOL
* TRIAL *
RETURN TO CO-ORDINATOR

Date of visit: 30th September 2031
Patient: "Biscuit" (F, est. 14 wks, clone-cohort, Marpole site)
Owner: Miss Lily Wells (6),
c/o Mr. & Mrs. Wells, 4 Orchard Close, Marpole
Clone Cat Protocol Ref: CCP-MAR-031-019

Presenting concern

Mr. and Mrs. Wells attended with the patient and with their daughter Lily, the patient's nominal owner. The owner's questionnaire was completed by Mrs. Wells on Lily's behalf. The clinical sections are unremarkable - the patient is reported to be eating, sleeping and toileting normally and to present no signs of ill health. Each "Other" field, however, contains a quoted statement from the child, transcribed by the mother in a smaller, careful hand:

sec. 3 Other: she says the cat "isn't real."
sec. 4 Other: she says it's "pretending to be a cat."
sec. 6 Other: she says she can tell. she doesn't know how she can tell.

The presenting concern, as recorded in section 2, is that Lily has refused to be in the same room as the patient since the second day after collection. The family report that she cries when the patient enters a room and asks repeatedly that it be "taken back." Mrs. Wells stresses that the child had been excited to receive the kitten and showed no distress on the day of collection itself; the change was sudden, and the child has been unable to explain it.

On examination

Patient presented as bright, alert and well-handled. Coat, weight and dentition all consistent with age. Pupillary response normal; no aural, optical or skeletal abnormality noted. No clinical findings of any kind.

The patient was offered to Lily during the consultation; she became distressed and could not be persuaded to approach. She stated only that the kitten "looks wrong" and that "it's looking at me with someone else's face." On further gentle questioning she was unable to elaborate.

Assessment

No physical pathology in the patient. The presenting concern is entirely on the owner's side. I am unable on examination to identify what the child is responding to.

Recommendation

Advised the family to give Lily time and not to force interaction with the patient. Suggested re-attendance in two weeks if the situation has not improved. Lily was offered a sticker, which she accepted, but she would not look at the patient on the way out.

- R.P.

third one this week -
should I tell someone?