Feline Focus

By now, you know that *Compendium* is launching several new series this year, and excitement is building! So what’s new in the journal for you and your feline patients? The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) is partnering with *Compendium* to shine the spotlight on cats on a quarterly basis in Feline Focus! This series will provide you with pertinent and timely updates in feline medicine, covering a myriad of useful and useable facts to help you help cats in your practice. It will include brief abstracts and conference pearls; how-to articles about approaching specific problems in cats, as well as handling and working more peacefully and effectively with the more difficult members of this species; and summaries of AAFP guidelines.

While FIV and FeLV vaccines are not considered core for adult cats, FeLV is a core vaccine for cats younger than 1 year.

Every column will be peer-reviewed by a diplomate specialist and approved by a representative of the AAFP. Together, *Compendium* and the AAFP want to provide more access to information about feline medicine, brought to you by sources you know you can trust.

In this premiere offering of Feline Focus, we are pleased to share with you the 2008 AAFP Feline Retrovirus Management Guidelines. Not excited yet? Let me whet your appetite. For example, did you know that testing, not vaccination, is the cornerstone to management and prevention of the spread of FeLV and FIV and that all cats should be tested, especially when they are ill? Vaccination should be considered only in adult cats that are deemed to live in an at-risk environment (i.e., FeLV and FIV vaccines are not core for adult cats). However, FeLV vaccination is now recommended as core for cats younger than 1 year. Do you know what the risk for FeLV or FIV is in your region?

In addition to providing recommendations on preventing retrovirus infections, the guidelines are an excellent source of information about caring for retrovirus-positive cats—not only pet cats but also those in cattery, shelter, and rescue situations. Do clients ask you whether fencing is adequate for isolation of retrovirus-positive cats from uninfected cats, or what kinds of disinfectant they need to use? Do you know how often a cat with FeLV should be examined and which tests should be conducted at each visit, or what drugs have been shown to be effective in the treatment of FeLV or FIV? If the answers to any of these questions intrigue you, the practical, scientifically solid article in this issue should be a useful clinic resource.

Welcome to Feline Focus! We look forward to growing a relationship with you based on solid, practical feline facts.

Cheers!
Margie C