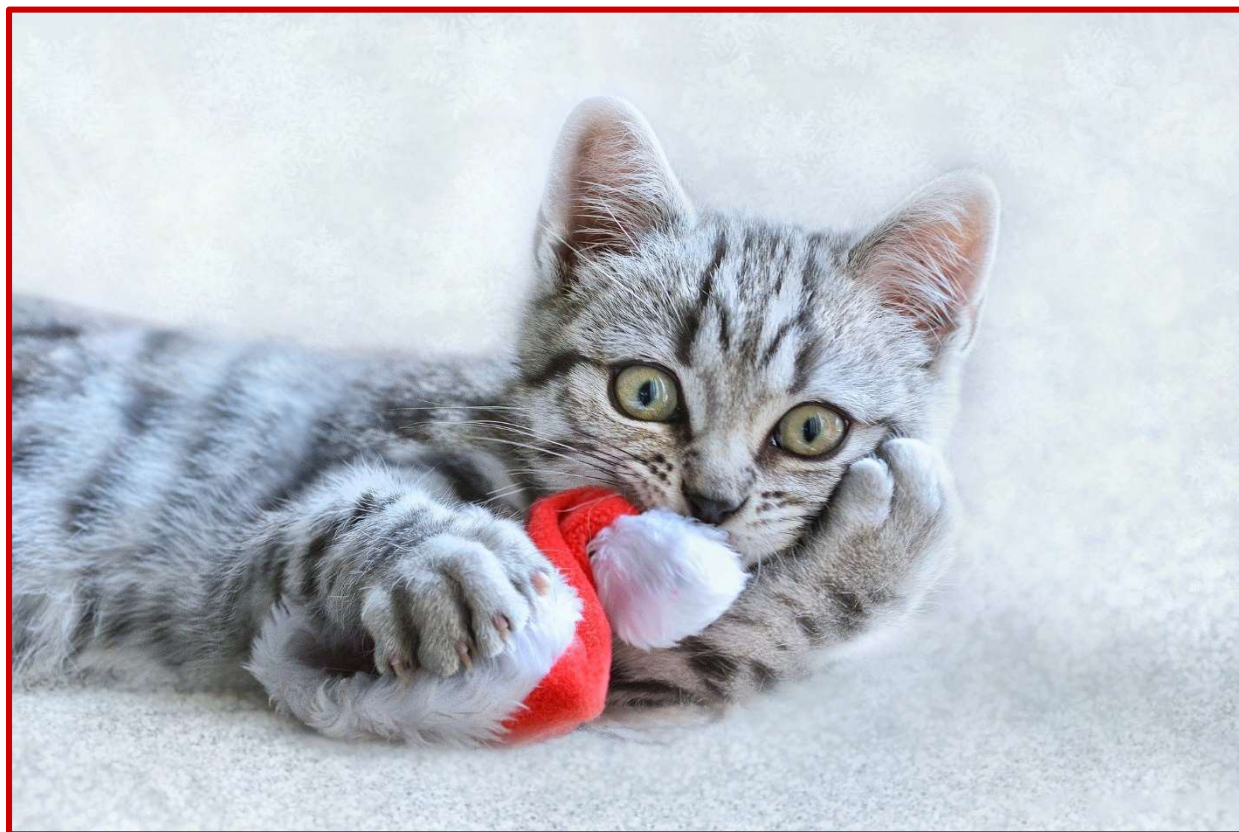




Christmas Newsletter



“Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing but of reflection.”

Winston Churchill

To our friends and supporters

Each year during the holiday season, we take great pleasure in setting aside our regular work and sending a heartfelt message to all our best friends and supporters. The year has flown by, and we are joyful that the time has come again to extend to you our sincere gratitude. It is good people like you that make our mission possible.

All in all, it's been a wonderful year. In 2019, EndFIP® celebrated its first anniversary. From the outset I wanted to create a global vision for the EndFIP® brand. I realized this project needed to provide a service that solves a mass market problem using a different approach. The simplicity of the ideas, and the passion, needed to penetrate overseas markets.

It all started with a thought back in 2013 when my own cat lost his fight to Feline Infectious Peritonitis. I couldn't change the fact that Luca was gone but I could give impetus to, and put things in motion to create a project, which like FIP, crossed borders.

EndFIP® kicked off its second-year last October, with positive forward momentum. I had the pleasure of meeting with our European team in Paris and amongst other things we decided “unanimously” that our very first series of events be held in beautiful South Africa.

EndFIP® is thrilled that interest and support for our work is growing, because that means we can set our sights on furthering our impact. We are so grateful for the strength that our supporters provide as our behind-the-scenes partners. When we work together, anything is possible.

Thank you for embracing our mission. EndFIP® is grateful beyond words for your continued support, commitment to our success and for the role you play in the global quest to end FIP. This is just the beginning; we will never stop working as hard as we can to end a disease that has claimed so many for so long. We hope that you will keep partnering with us.

May your holidays be filled with joy and the coming year be overflowing with all the good things in life. We hope this Christmas is filled with many good memories, and that you enjoy time spent with loved ones.

Maria S. Bonino
Founder/Director
EndFIP® | Luca Fund for FIP Research



“What is Christmas?

**It is tenderness for the past,
courage for the present, hope for
the future.”**

Agnes M. Pahro



A word about FIP

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a devastating viral disease of cats that occurs worldwide and can affect many systems of the body. It is a progressive disease which carries a high mortality rate. In 1963, American veterinarian Jean Holzworth (March 26, 1915 – January 13, 2007) at Cornell University first described a peritonitis in cats which caused the abdominal cavity to fill up with fluid. The condition appeared to be infectious, hence the name Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP).

In 1970, J.M Ward identified a virus similar to known coronavirus as the pathogen causing the disease. Feline coronavirus (FCoV) is an enveloped RNA virus. The name coronavirus comes from the shape of the structure which resembles a crown (corona in Latin) when viewed under an electron microscope. The virus (crown) spikes are what attach it to the cell when it infects a cat.

FCoV contains the largest known viral, non-segmented RNA genome and is undoubtedly one of the most poorly understood feline viruses. The disease it causes (FIP) is unquestionably the most feared disease in any multi-cat environment and the most shattering diagnosis for a pet parent to come to terms with. Luckily, most cats infected with FCoV never develop FIP. However, for reasons that we don't yet fully understand, instead of clearing FCoV infection, an unfortunate few cats (estimated 5% - 10%) develop the disease.



FCoV is a virus of the gastrointestinal tract. Most infections are either asymptomatic, or cause diarrhea/mild intestinal upset, especially in kittens, as maternally derived antibodies wanes at between 5 and 7 weeks of age.

FCoV is shed in the feces and infection occurs when cats ingest (or inhale) the virus. FCoV is a very contagious virus and it only takes a tiny speck of cat litter dust from a litter tray previously used by an infected cat for the virus to spread. Therefore, exposure to feces in litter boxes is the most common mode of infection.

FCoV is a relatively uncommon virus in pet cats allowed access to the outdoors and kept in households of one or two cats, but in situations where there are a lot of cats (i.e. breeding catteries, rescue shelters, hoarding situations, etc.) FCoV is endemic, infecting almost all of the corresponding cat population. Feline coronavirus (FCoV) is ubiquitous globally and perhaps you are wondering why some cats developed FIP whilst the vast majority of FCoV infected cats thankfully don't.

The pathogenesis (manner of development of a disease) of FIP is complicated: the reductionist view is that it is entirely due to a mutation of the virus. Whilst this internal mutation theory is the most widely accepted, no consistent mutation has been identified. The holistic approach is that FIP occurs as a result of a number of factors, including viral load, the immune status and general health of the cat.

There are two major forms of FIP - an effusive form, often called "wet FIP", which is characterized by high protein fluid accumulation in body cavities, and a non-effusive form or "dry FIP" which is characterized by pyogranulomatous lesions in any body organ or system. Although FIP is separated into these two forms, there is really a gradient between these forms and sometimes signs of both forms can be seen. Signs common to both forms of FIP include fluctuating antibiotic unresponsive fever, lethargy, anorexia, and weight loss.

Since first being discovered decades ago, Feline Infectious Peritonitis is one of the most studied feline diseases, and yet it remains one of the most enigmatic viral diseases of the cat. Much progress has been made since those early days and encouraging new treatments have surfaced in recent years, but there's much work to be done in the fields of feline FCoV and FIP. In spite of promising treatments, FIP still remains an almost always fatal disease.

Want to learn more about FCoV and Feline Infectious Peritonitis

Visit: <http://www.endfip.com/fip-in-depth/>



Join us in South Africa in October, 2020

EndFIP® is truly a global initiative. All of us in the team are fully committed to our goal to put an end to the disease. The choice of South Africa to host our very first series of educational events was a natural one. We are excited to start our events in a country where EndFIP® has such a large and loyal audience. A captivating land of great natural beauty and cultural diversity.

The start of a new year provides a natural opening to look forward to, and plan for, what we strive to accomplish. EndFIP® will deliver a high-quality and fun-filled experience while providing information and support. We will continue to impart worldwide awareness and understanding of feline coronavirus (FCoV) as well as to encourage people to respect the seriousness of FCoV infection and inspire them to create lasting solutions to prevent feline coronavirus (FCoV) infection in multi-cat environments.



www.endfip.com

We are committed to remain focused on the cultural transformation we began in 2018. We will transform the FIP field, step-by-step, one cat at a time. We want to make it simple and clear that we believe in ethical, cruelty-free research and firmly stand against the needless suffering of animals in the name of science.

All of us at EndFIP® are keen to being an extraordinary partner to you and we hope that you will join us in South Africa.

*EndFIP® will host educational and social events in both Johannesburg and Cape Town in early October, 2020. Stay tuned for more details and announcements over the next for months; and... start planning to attend.

We are taking FIP education to the world!

First to Africa, the heartbeat of the world - the home of big cats, and small cats with big hearts.

*EndFIP® operational expenses including but not limited to: website(s) management, educational programs, marketing, educational events and travel expenses are paid by its Founder/Director. Unlike other FIP related fund(s) and/or FIP fundraising platform(s) - EndFIP® does **NOT** use any donated funds and provides a guarantee to all the donors to the Luca Fund for FIP Research that **100%** (minus PayPal and/or currency conversion fees) are allocated exclusively towards ethical and humane FIP research conducted at the University of Glasgow.



#GivingTuesday 2019

On Tuesday December 3, 2019, the Luca Fund for FIP Research joined thousands of organizations across the globe participating in the largest giving day of the year. Our was goal was to raise \$2,500 in just 24 hours. With the generous support of donors from all corners of the world, we've raised **\$2,671** in just ONE DAY!

This has been one of our most successful fundraising events ever. These valuable funds will be used to support the University of Glasgow's research into FIP and Feline Coronavirus. Research study details can be found here: www.endfip.com/improving-fip-diagnostic/

On behalf of the American Alumni of Glasgow University (AAGU) and the University of Glasgow, we want to express our sincerest gratitude to all our compassionate supporters. It is inspiring to see how you continue to step up, and for always being an irreplaceable part of the success that is the Luca Fund for FIP Research.



To learn more about #GivingTuesday, please visit:

www.givingtuesday.org



"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

John Bunyon

Meowy Christmas!



We can come up with a million reasons why we think this is the best time of the year. From guiltless cookie consumption, to delicious food and cocktails, to tons of family time, there's a lot to be excited about during the Christmas season. But Christmas' non-stop shopping, never-ending gift wrapping and, yes, family time, can make the holidays a little stressful, as well.

Because our cats are just like us, they feel the ups and downs of the holiday, too. So, as you celebrate the season, don't forget to sneak some quality time with your precious feline family member(s). Here's a fun way to spoil your cats.



Bake tasty treats using the recipe below:








Paws-itively delicious cat treats

Ingredients

6 ounces undrained tuna
1 cup flour
1 cup cornmeal
1 egg
2 teaspoons water



Instructions

-  Preheat oven to 350F degrees
-  Place all ingredients into mixing bowl, stir well until soft dough forms.
-  Let dough rest for 10 minutes
-  Cover large flat surface with cornmeal and roll dough out until 1/4 inch thick
-  Use either a small cookie cutter or knife to cut into small shapes
-  Place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet and bake for 15-20 minutes
-  Let cool and serve to your cat(s)



Please check with your veterinarian to see if these treats are appropriate for your cat's diet.

EndFIP® is dedicated to keeping cats healthy and happy. With this in mind, we want to remind our readers to take some extra precautions and ensure their cat stays safe during the Christmas season. Kittens and young, or playful, cats are at the greatest risk of injury due to holiday decorations. Senior or shy cats may be more prone to stress-induced illness when there is too much going on in your home.

Below is a list of the most common holiday season related dangers for your feline companion.

- 🎄 **Christmas trees.** Curious cats trying to climb the tree are at risk of injury. The oils produced by some real Christmas trees are also mildly toxic if consumed, causing minor irritation to a pet's mouth and stomach. Sharp pine needles can cause internal damage if swallowed, or can get into eyes or ears.
- 🎄 **Tinsel and decorations.** Tinsel can cause serious illness if ingested due to blockages they can cause, and in some cases this can be fatal. Playful kitties can break glass ornaments, causing injuries.
- 🎄 **Christmas lights** can pose a real danger to cats if they decide to chew on any electrical wiring. Please make sure to switch off at the mains when you are not around to supervise your rambunctious feline.
- 🎄 **Snow globes.** Pet parents should be wary of snow globes. Some of these festive ornaments contain ethylene glycol (antifreeze), which is highly toxic to pets.
- 🎄 **Plants poisonous to cats.** Poinsettia and berries are among the festive plants which pose a risk. Poinsettia is often feared by pet parents but is, in fact, only mildly toxic to felines if eaten, causing minor stomach irritation. Berries, including those from holly and mistletoe, are far more dangerous, as well as amaryllis plants. Meanwhile, even small quantities of lily leaf or pollen can be dangerous. Festive red lilies can be fatal to cats. **If you suspect you cat has eaten any poisonous plants, contact your veterinarian immediately.**
- 🎄 **Food.** Christmas is a time of year when there's plenty of kitchen activity going on, but be careful around your cat when you are cooking, either to lick a mess or they can also jump up onto a hot surface. Some of the Christmas ingredients poisonous to cats are: onions, garlic, gravy, raisins, grapes, chocolate, and alcohol. **If you are concerned about something your cat might have eaten, please contact your veterinarian immediately and/or the following (consultation fee may apply):**

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: +1 888 426 4435 | Pet Poison Helpline: +1 855 764 7661

EndFIP® wishes you a joyous Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!





It's true that it takes a village to ignite real change, so we're pumped to have our supporters rally with us to create a lasting impact through giving. This Christmas season and always, it is a joy and an honor to partner with you in our efforts to help cats worldwide. It matters for each of them that we take the power we have and use it to create change.

Your donation today is helping to fund much needed FIP research at the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine.

Please, make an urgent gift of any amount right now at:
www.endfip.com/donate

“Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”
Hamilton Wright Mabie

EndFIP®: A vision and a mission

- Bring awareness
- Raise funds for research
- Eradicate FCoV and end FIP



Help us accomplish our goals. Your donation is both needed and appreciated. The Luca Fund for FIP Research is committed to exclusively support research that does not use laboratory cats and does not conduct

experimental infection of healthy cats with a deadly virus. Help us end FIP, so that one day, no one will have to go through the pain of losing their cherished cat to a disease that has claimed so many for so long.

The Luca Fund for FIP Research is part of the global vision of the EndFIP® project. Your donation to the Luca Fund will be applied to studies conducted at the University of Glasgow School of Veterinary Medicine. The Luca Fund for FIP research is a special fund of the American Alumni of the University of Glasgow established in 2018 to accept tax-deductible donations for Feline Infectious Peritonitis research. AAGU has been recognized by the IRS as a section 501(c) (3) charitable organization. All donations to AAGU are deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law.



www.endfip.com/donate
www.LucaFundforFIP.com

