

## Information sheet

### Background to the research

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a common hormonal disease of cats. In most cats, DM is thought to resemble human type 2 DM. The development of type 2 DM in people has a large genetic component and some **genetic mutations associated with DM** in cats have also been discovered through research at the RVC. This would not have been possible without **archived residual blood samples** which we have been collecting since 2005 with the support of first opinion veterinary practices and owners of diabetic cats. The archive has also been essential for the investigation of a condition called **acromegaly**, which is another important cause of DM in cats.

### The UK Feline Diabetes Archive – how does it work?

Diabetic cats routinely undergo blood sampling which is necessary for diagnostic and monitoring purposes. As a part of the UK Feline Diabetes Archive scheme we offer **free of charge** measurement of **fructosamine** (blood test used to monitor DM), triglycerides, cholesterol and fasting blood glucose concentration in return for consent to **archive and use the residual blood samples for research**, including genetic analysis. Consent is given by owners' or attending veterinarian's signature on the submission form. Patient's data and treatment information provided on the submission form are essential for investigation of risk factors and underlying mechanisms of DM and are therefore also recorded in the database. All data collection is in accordance with the Data Protection Act.

### Expected outcomes and benefits of this research

Research using the archived samples will contribute to better understanding of mechanisms of DM in cats. Such findings will assist in **earlier recognition of the disease and improvement of current preventative and therapeutic strategies**.

**We are most grateful to all owners, cats and veterinary surgeons who have supported our research by submitting samples to the archive! Our research would be impossible without your help!**

Katarina Hazuchova DVM DipECVIM-CA MRCVS, PhD student

Brian Catchpole BVetMed PhD FRCVS, Professor of Companion Animal Immunology

Ruth Gostelow BVetMed MVetMed PhD DipACVIM DipECVIM-CA MRCVS, Lecturer in Small Animal Internal Medicine