

**AVMA NEWS RELEASE**  
**AMERICAN VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

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Research Veterinarians  
Discuss Feline Diseases

**ITHACA, NEW YORK** — A conference on selected feline (cat) infectious diseases was held on the campus of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, on September 15-17, 1970. In addition to scientists from the United States, representatives from Austria, England, Scotland, and Germany participated in the conference. Dr. Winston M. Decker, Director of Scientific Activities, American Veterinary Medical Association, stated that, "For the first time, internationally recognized veterinarians, physicians, and biomedical scientists gathered to discuss numerous disease problems of the cat and how they might relate to human health."

Dr. J. H. Gillespie, Professor of Microbiology, New York State Veterinary College, Cornell University, served as co-chairman of the Colloquium with four other research veterinarians who directed a program of over 60 presentations on feline leukemia, rabies, cat scratch disease, feline pneumonitis, feline infectious peritonitis, and other diseases of the cat. Following the conference, a special panel of participants drew up conclusions and recommendations which will be published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

One of the conclusions of the panel dealt with leukemia in the cat and how it relates to human health, based on a presentation by Clark W. Heath, Jr., M.D., National Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Georgia. The panel determined that, "Preliminary reports of current epidemiological studies indicate clearly that cats, with or without cancer, are not responsible for cancer in man."

A discussion on feline urolithiasis, Dr. L. J. Rich, Assistant Professor, Department of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University, concluded that, "while research observations are not conclusive, it appears that feline urolithiasis (the formation of stones or granular material in the urinary tract) may be associated with an unidentified virus."

Co-sponsoring the conference along with the American Veterinary Medical Association and the AVMA Foundation were the New York State Veterinary College at Cornell University; the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health, Education and Welfare; the Friskies Division of the Carnation Company; the Elanco Products Company; the Council for Tobacco Research; and the CFA Foundation, Inc.

