

# Osteogenesis Imperfecta in Cats

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It seems worth repeating that the disease Osteogenesis Imperfecta is of nutritional origin in cats. The disorder is characterized by limping, inability to stand and in severe cases paralysis of the hind legs. Of the many disabling features of the disease in cats, the most important are impacted fractures of the vertebral bodies which can result in compression of the spinal cord and paralysis.

For many years Osteogenesis Imperfecta was thought to be a disease of genetic origin. However, in 1963, Scott, McKusick and McKusick reported their study in the **Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery**. They stated that the disease in cats is due to calcium deficiency. Cats will not develop this disease if they are fed whole ground ocean fish and skim milk. Sea fish are rich in both calcium and iodine, and skim milk contains much calcium. Meat is low in both elements.

It is particularly important that the pregnant queen be fed such a diet in order to prevent the disease from occurring in the kittens. The authors further state that it is possible that Siamese and Burmese have a higher calcium requirement than other breeds.

## Reference:

### **The Nature of Osteogenesis Imperfecta in Cats**

Patricia P. Scott, Victor A. McKusick and Anne B. McKusick

**The Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery**, American Volume 45-A No. 1, Jan. 1963 (p 125-134)