Cat P.A.WS Pilot; A Prospective Ageing and Welfare Study in Cats

There is very little research into the healthy ageing of cats, the ageing process is considered to start from seven years of age based on the current literature. It is recognised prevalence of renal disease, hyperthyroidism, hypertension, diabetes, cardiac disease and osteoarthritis all increase with age in cats causing significant welfare concerns. Age related feline neurobiology diseases are not as yet well studied or understood but age related cognitive dysfunction is recognised clinically in the absence of other diseases in geriatric cats. We are establishing a clinic enrolling cats from seven to ten years of age, to collect data on physical, musculoskeletal, biochemical and hormonal changes in a longitudinal study into the ageing of cats to improve the evidence base. A ten cat pilot has been performed to determine is the method developed is suitable to a large prospective study aiming to enrol three hundred cats over a three to four year period.