



# Cranial cruciate ligament disease in cats

An epidemiological retrospective study of 50 cats



One of the cats in the study. Photo: Lars B. Kurin

## Materials & methods

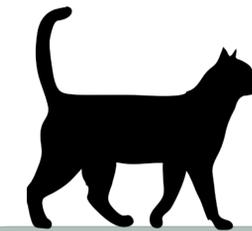
- ✿ Retrospective cohort study of medical records
- ✿ Cats treated at University Animal Hospitals in Oslo and Uppsala during 2011-2016
- ✿ Two groups; surgically and conservatively treated cats
- ✿ A Quality of Life questionnaire "Feline Musculoskeletal Pain Index" was distributed to owners of cats still alive at follow-up, for evaluation of chronic pain as long-term outcome

## Objectives

- ✿ Describe characteristics and long-term outcome for cats with cranial cruciate ligament disease (CCLD) after surgical/conservative treatment

## Results

- ✿ 50 cats included, 28 treated conservatively and 22 surgically.
- ✿ Median follow-up time 41 months.
- ✿ Of the surgically treated, all cats with joint inspection (19/22) had a total ligament rupture and 9/19 (47%) had meniscal injuries. 5/22 (23%) had injuries involving multiple stifle ligaments. Postoperative complications occurred in 6/22 (27%) cats.
- ✿ Seven cats (14%) developed bilateral CCLD
- ✿ Owners of 24/29 (83%) cats still alive at follow-up completed the questionnaire.
- ✿ The conservatively treated cats had lower median FMPI-score compared to surgically treated cats ( $p = 0.017$ ), indicating less chronic pain. The difference was significant even when cats with multi-ligament injuries were excluded ( $p = 0.05$ ).



## Conclusion

- ✿ Conservatively treated cats with CCLD experienced less chronic pain at long-term follow-up compared to surgically treated cats
- ✿ Meniscal injuries, postoperative complications, and multi-ligament stifle injuries were frequently observed in surgically treated cats
- ✿ Bilateral CCLD occurred in 14 % of the cats

