Cranial cruciate ligament disease in cats
An epidemiological retrospective study of 50 cats

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

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

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