

Egyptian Mau Society – Health Matters

Egyptian Mau Urate Stone Genetic Study

A study on feline urate urolithiasis, or urate stones, was conducted by veterinary scientists at the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph, the [findings](#) of which were published in 2010. Among other findings, the study identified an association between urate urolithiasis and the Egyptian Mau which, to the authors' knowledge, was a new finding that showed the Egyptian Mau is significantly predisposed to urate urolithiasis.

The cause of urate uroliths in cats is not well understood, however the high odds ratios in the Egyptian Mau to develop urate stones may suggest a genetic cause to the predisposition for urate stones.

In **2018**, one of our overseas members in Canada, who was the owner of a 4 year old male Egyptian Mau that was very sick with urate stones, contacted Dr Leslie Lyons (University of Missouri in the USA) and the **Egyptian Mau Urate Stone Genetic Study** was restarted (it was previously cut short due to lack of available recruits to the study).

Egyptian Mau Urate Stone Genetic Study

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Egyptian Mau associations and owners were asked to participate in a comprehensive study on urate uroliths in cats in the hope of identifying a genetic link and potentially finding a cure for this condition. By **July 2019 over a short period of 4 months** an international effort by Mau breeders, owners and lovers resulted in donations that achieved the required funding to progress the study, part of the [99 lives programme](#), which is being headed by Dr. Leslie Lyons of the Feline Genetics & Comparative Medicine Laboratory, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Missouri, USA. In addition to the funding, Mau owners have provided buccal swab samples from Egyptian Mau cats with stones, AND from their normal parents and siblings.

Further DNA samples of affected cats with a urate stone diagnosis are still required to continue the study which can be arranged via Langford Vets at Bristol University. The contact is Dr. Philippa Lait whose contact information can be found on the attached form.

There are the following closed groups on Facebook where you can find out the latest information and share information:

- Egyptian Mau – Urate Stone Genetic Study
- Urate Bladder Stones in Cats (not exclusively Maus)

What are Urate Stones?

Minerals that naturally occur in urine can clump together to form tiny crystals. When crystals clump together, they form uroliths (also known as urinary stones or calculi). These stones can develop anywhere in the urinary system, including the kidney, ureter, bladder, or urethra. Certain types of stones appear to have increased in cats in recent years. The cause is not clear, but researchers are looking at the effects of diet to determine if there is any link. ([see more](#))

Links

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2857427/>

<http://felinegenetics.missouri.edu/egyptian-mau-urate-stone-genetic-study>

<http://felinegenetics.missouri.edu/99lives>

<https://www.msdtvetmanual.com/cat-owners/kidney-and-urinary-tract-disorders-of-cats/urinary-stones-uroliths,-calculi-in-cats?query=urinary%20stones%20in%20cats>

Further support and guidance is available from our fellow member, Lesley Turner, who can be contacted via email: turner_lesley@yahoo.co.uk

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