

FCV strain in Intervet's  
Nobivac<sup>®</sup> Tricat neutralises a  
broad selection of UK isolates



the future of vaccination

# Virus neutralisation studies: the importance of strain selection

Clearly, vaccines that are to be used in the UK should be tested against UK strains. And to further ensure the relevance of such studies, chosen strains should be recent isolates selected at random.

Unfortunately, some trials can fail in this regard, choosing isolates that favour one particular vaccinal strain over another, or using strains not isolated in the UK.

A recent independent study was carried out at the University of Liverpool. This study focused exclusively on UK isolates which had been selected at random.

# The problem with feline calicivirus

Feline calicivirus (FCV) is a difficult target for vaccines to address. As an RNA virus, it is capable of frequent and rapid mutation, and a very large number of field strains are found in the wild.

Intervet's vaccine, Nobivac Tricat, uses the F9 strain. This is because of its proven safety as an attenuated live vaccine – and because of the benefits that a live vaccine can bring. As the UK's most popular cat vaccine, its continuing efficacy for the control of cat 'flu is well recognised in the field.

However, it is important that this efficacy is monitored on a regular basis. And in this respect, the results of a recent independent virus neutralisation study have proved very instructive.

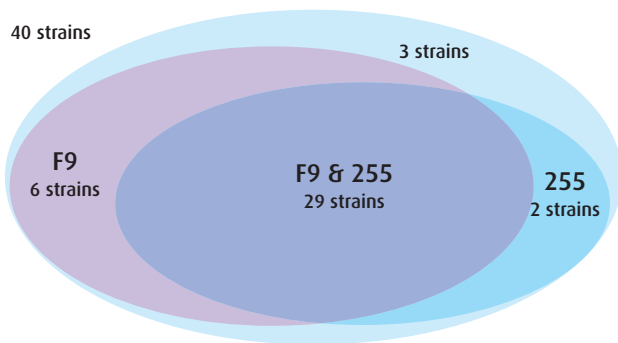
# University of Liverpool Independent Study<sup>1</sup>

Strain selection: field isolates were obtained by sampling cats attending UK veterinary practices.

One practice was chosen at random from each of 75 regions in the UK and in late 2001 each practice was asked to obtain a swab from the next 20 cats presented at their surgery. From these samples, 40 isolates were chosen at random and cultured to produce a working stock of virus.

These 40 isolates were then used in virus neutralisation (VN) tests against 2 different antisera, one derived from FCV strain F9 (Nobivac Tricat) and the other from FCV strain 255.

## Liverpool study-strain neutralisation



## Neutralisation pattern vs. 40 UK isolates randomly obtained in 2001-2002

FCV Serum	% of UK isolates neutralised
F9	88%
255	75%

NB. Homologous titre for antisera F9 is 1 in 232 and 1 in 2755 for antisera 255

Overall, the antisera showed similar cross-reactivity, with F9 antisera neutralising 35 (88%) and 255 antisera 30 (75%) of the 40 isolates tested. As can be seen, the F9 vaccine neutralised the largest selection of UK isolates.

# Conclusion

In the most recent and relevant study of its type, using 40 randomly-selected FCV field strains from the UK, the Nobivac Tricat F9 serum neutralised 88% of isolates in the trial.

Combined with the efficacy that Nobivac Tricat continues to demonstrate in the field, this study supports the continuing value of the vaccine in countering feline calicivirus disease in the UK.

# Nobivac Tricat

## The proven vaccine

- Nobivac Tricat is administered to more UK cats than any other vaccine<sup>2</sup>
- All-live attenuated components allow earlier stated onset of immunity than any other feline vaccine
- A non-adjuvanted vaccine with a safety record proven through years of use
- Fully licensed for combined use (mixing) with Nobivac® FeLV and Nobivac® Rabies
- Nobivac vaccines come with the UK's most comprehensive support package. Ask your Intervet Account Manager for details



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For further information about Nobivac® Tricat,  
please contact your Intervet Account Manager,  
call the Veterinary Support Group on 01908 685685,  
or visit [www.intervet.co.uk](http://www.intervet.co.uk)

#### References

1. Porter. C.J, Radford. A.D, Gaskell. R.M, Ryvar. R. and Dawson S., Comparison of the ability of FCV vaccines to neutralise a panel of current UK feline calicivirus isolates. (BSAVA 2006 abstract submitted)
2. GfK data October 2005

