January 2006 News

The protozoan *Trichomonas foetus* (TF) is a common cause of chronic diarrhea in young cats. It is more common in cats that are housed together, such as those in shelters or catteries. For instance, a study published in 2004 found almost one-third of cats attending an international cat show were found to be infected with this organism.

Previously, there had been no effective treatment reported for *T. foetus* infections. Recently, veterinarians at North Carolina State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Raleigh, NC evaluated the use of ronidazole (RDZ) for treatment of this infection in cats.

Ten 10-week-old neutered female cats who were infected with *T. foetus* and had signs of loose feces were randomly assigned to two groups. One group received a low dose of RDZ and the other group received a placebo for two weeks. The low dose treatment with RDZ caused initial improvement, but each treated cat relapsed after treatment was completed. Both groups then received a higher dose of ronidazole, and nine of the ten cats were cured.