

Ragdoll Renal Aplasia/Uterine Horn Issues - Research

This is very important not just for breeders but pet owners too. Worldwide there have been reports of Ragdolls with only one kidney (renal aplasia) and one uterine horn in females. There has been the odd report in the UK of Ragdolls with one kidney. This has been taken on board by Professor Leslie Lyons and her people. Professor Leslie Lyons is one of the world's foremost feline geneticists. She has done a lot of valuable research in felines over many years. Funds have been raised (TBRCC donated funds raised from the Supreme Show 2017) and she has a team ready to go on research into these possible issues but she needs our help now. She needs help from every Ragdoll owner all over the world. They need samples and information. So how can you help?

When female Ragdolls are being spayed if they are done 'mid-line' then the vet can see if there are two kidneys but also get the vet to report back to you if only one uterine horn is present. When Ragdolls are at the vets being registered (if you are a pet owner) or vaccinated (if you are a breeder) then the vet can palpate to see if a cat/kitten does have two kidneys. Please ask your vet to do this. Even if your cat is going in for a booster. Explain to your vet what we are trying to do.

What do you do if you discover your Ragdoll has one kidney or one uterine horn? First of all do not panic. Many people live long, healthy normal lives with one kidney. If your girl is being spayed then one horn not two it is not a major issue. We do need to help with this research though. This is what is needed to be sent to Professor Lyons and her team:

- At least 4 DNA samples for the affected cat – this is 2 cotton buds/q-tips (both ends)
- The same number of DNA samples from parents, siblings etc (if possible) – hopefully at least one 'normal' parent or sibling. They have to be checked if they have both kidneys and uterine horns (if female). Both kidneys should suffice.
- Details of how the vet diagnosed the issue and a vets report
- Pedigree
- All samples etc must be clearly labelled

The address to send them to:

Leslie A. Lyons, PhD

Gilbreath-McLorn Endowed Professor of Comparative Medicine

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