

WHAT WE ARE DOING

Researchers at Oregon State University and Columbia University are starting a project to study flame retardant chemicals in homes with older cats (10+ years, indoor-only preferred).

We will be doing research in Benton County, Oregon, and New York City, New York. We are using personal feline passive samplers, also known as “cat tags” (see photo below).

- Watch this video for more information: <http://fses.oregonstate.edu/PSDs>



If you would like to learn more about the study or are interested in participating, please ask the recruiting veterinarian to discuss the impacts of this study with you.



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OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
ANIMAL ENDOCRINE CLINIC

(2017-2018 recruitment)
**Feline Passive Samplers:
Measuring Flame Retardants
Using Silicone Cat Tags**



 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

Oregon State
UNIVERSITY **OSU**



animalendocrineclinic

Dr. Mark E. Peterson

WHY STUDY CATS AND FLAME RETARDANTS?

There is some evidence flame retardants may lead to feline hyperthyroidism. We want to compare levels of flame retardants found in homes of hyperthyroid and non-hyperthyroid cats (indoor-only preferred).

PASSIVE SAMPLING

We use passive sampling to measure flame retardants chemicals that cats may come in contact with. For example, flame retardants are present in many types of furniture, carpet, and other textiles.

Passive sampling does not require power or maintenance to work. The passive sampling material can absorb flame retardants found in the home.

Cat tags (1 in*1 in*1/8 in) are about the same size as a standard pet ID tag (*see photo*). It is attached to a keychain loop of a cat collar,

which is worn by a cat. This tag will measure your cat's personal exposure to flame retardant chemicals in the home. The cat tags pose no danger to cats or to humans.



HOW CAN MY CAT PARTICIPATE?

Cats with or without feline hyperthyroidism can participate. If you choose to participate with your cat, you would schedule a veterinary visit and have your cat wear a cat tag for 7 days.

During your veterinary visit, we would like to:

- 1) Perform a total T4 immunoassay on your cat (checks his/her thyroid status)*, and
- 2) Ask you about your cat's care and home environment.

After your veterinary visit, you would:

- 1) Have your cat wear the cat tag and collar for 7 days, and
- 2) Mail the Post-Study Form and cat tag (sealed in the provided bag) to Oregon State University in a pre-paid envelope.



*If your cat does not have hyperthyroidism, this study will pay for the immunoassay test and you can choose to receive your cat's immunoassay results. Please ask the recruiting veterinarian for more details.

WHAT WILL BE TESTED?

The cat tag can collect over 40 flame retardant chemicals, which are known to impact human health. The cat tags do not sample particulate matter, bacteria, mold, carbon monoxide, or metals.

HOW WILL THE DATA BE USED?

This study is designed to look at cat flame retardant exposure and to increase our



knowledge about cat home environments. This study is not designed to give information about cat care. We hope this study will lead

to a larger study that may provide some useful health information for your cat.

WILL I RECEIVE MY CAT'S RESULTS?

You can choose to receive results about the type of flame retardants found in the study. You will receive a short report regarding the chemicals found in your cat's tag, as well as summary information about the other cats in the study.

WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION?

For feline health recommendations, talk with your regular veterinarian. For questions about this study, talk with the recruitment contact or see the phone numbers listed on this brochure.