



## Interesting Case from our web site [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)



### "Harvey" - Cat with Lymphoma



Most people would regard a 7 year old cat as being in their prime. Thus, when 7 year old Harvey started to lose weight and become lethargic, his owner's were very concerned.

In a relatively short space of time, Harvey turned from a healthy, lively cat to a very sick one. He lost weight alarmingly quickly, and was extremely anaemic when we saw him. His anaemia, combined with a palpable mass in the front of his abdomen, sparked fears of a haemorrhaging tumour. Blood tests, x-rays and an ultrasound examination added weight to this suspicion, and it was decided that Harvey needed a biopsy to determine once and for all what was going on.

Because of his weak state and severe anaemia, we decided we would like to give him a blood transfusion to help him through his operation.

In dogs, this would be straightforward, as a dog can receive the blood from any other dog provided it is their first transfusion, as they do not have antibodies against other blood groups which will destroy the donor red blood cells.

In cats, this is not the case! If a type B cat receives type A blood, it will suffer a serious transfusion reaction which may prove fatal. Type A is by far the commonest in cats. My own cats are type A and are used as our regular blood donors (the pitfall of being a vet's cat!). So far, we have been lucky - every cat we have needed to transfuse has also been type A. Harvey, however, proved to be Type B.

We had no available type B donor, so unfortunately had to bite the bullet and proceed without a transfusion. Fortunately for Harvey, things went well. He made a good recovery, and we discovered that the cancer in his stomach was one called lymphoma, which can be treated with chemotherapy.

Harvey has tolerated his chemo very well, with no adverse effects whatsoever. He has regained 2 pounds in weight, and is back to his usual self which - in his case - means grumbling and hissing at our nurses when he comes in! Trust Harvey to be difficult! But we are happy to see him like this - when he starts to be more co-operative, we'll be worried that he is poorly again!

If any of our clients would consider volunteering to have their cat's blood typed in order to see if we can find a type B donor for future emergencies, we would be very grateful. Please phone the Fairfield vets and ask to speak to me personally.

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This article is available on the Fairfield Veterinary Centre web site at [www.fairfield-vets.co.uk](http://www.fairfield-vets.co.uk)

***You won't care how much we know - until you know how much we care***