

Understanding Cerebellar Hypoplasia in Cats

What is Feline Cerebellar Hypoplasia?

Cerebellar Hypoplasia is a disease found in cats that affects their cerebellum region of their brain causing it to be smaller than average. This portion of the brain controls fine motor movement, which causes infected cats to have poor movement control often times falling over or stumbling while they walk. The disease is non-progressive, meaning it will not get worse with time. There are varying conditions of the disease:

- A. Mild- Cat is able to walk and function without special care but is still movement-impaired.
- B. Moderate- In this state a cat has significant movement impairment and will need more assistance than most cats.
- C. Severe- In this stage of the condition a cat has little to no movement capabilities and will require a lot of special care. Most cats in this stage roll to move around.

How do Cats contract Cerebellar Hypoplasia?

Kittens can contract cerebellar hypoplasia most commonly if their mother is infected with the Panleukopenia virus. The kittens are not carriers of the Panleukopenia virus when born, but it does stunt their growth in the cerebellum. Symptoms of cerebellar hypoplasia are normally present at birth. Vaccination against diseases and distemper can help reduce the number of cats with this disability

Are Cats with Cerebellar Hypoplasia in any Pain?

No. Cats with Hypoplasia can live normal and happy lives. Their life expectancy is just as long as a normal cats life. In most cases, these cats learn to deal with their condition and can learn to function with a little help from a caring owner.

Is There a Way to Help These Cats?

Yes! Adopting a cat with cerebellar hypoplasia into a home with a caring owner is the best thing for these cats. Too often kittens with this disease are euthanized without giving them a chance to survive and lowering awareness for this challenging disease. For more information on how to help, please visit:



<http://chcat.org/adoptable-cats/> for more information.