

# How to talk to cat owners about HCM

A guide to opening the conversation, delivering a diagnosis, and knowing what to say when they ask.

## WHY THIS CONVERSATION IS DIFFERENT NOW

Felycin®-CA1 (sirolimus delayed-release tablets) is the first and only disease-modifying drug conditionally approved by the FDA to effectively manage HCM. This means the conversation you start at the exam table today could make a huge difference in a cat's life.



## CONVERSATION SCRIPTS FOR COMMON SCENARIOS

### Seeing an at-risk breed

#### Justified screening before any finding

One thing I always like to discuss with [breed] owners—this breed has a genetic predisposition to a heart condition called HCM. It's really common, and most cats don't show any signs until it's advanced. Screening gives us the best chance of catching HCM early when we can manage it.

### When you hear a murmur

#### Turn a finding into a pathway

I'm picking up a heart murmur. It doesn't necessarily mean something serious, but I don't want to leave it unexplored. There's a condition called HCM that can show up this way, and it's much easier to manage when we catch it early. I'd like to run a quick blood test today to help us navigate the path forward.

### Recommending an echocardiogram

#### Help them understand the importance

The results from the blood test indicate that [cat's name] may have HCM. However, the only way to know for sure is through an echocardiogram that allows us to see the heart clearly. I know this is a lot to take in, but the sooner we know for sure, the sooner we can start managing it.

### Delivering an HCM diagnosis

#### Sympathetically share the next steps

So all of the tests confirm that [cat's name] does have HCM. The important thing is we found it in the early stages—and there's a medication we can start now that can slow the progression of the disease. It won't cure your cat's HCM, but it gives us a way to manage it.

# What owners ask and what to say

Word-for-word responses you can use or adapt.

## Owner asks

What is HCM?

HCM is a serious heart disease that affects 1 in 7 cats.<sup>1,2</sup> HCM causes a cat's heart muscle to thicken, reducing its pumping efficiency and potentially leading to serious health complications.

## Owner asks

If my cat has HCM, what can we do?

There is a good chance that we can manage it. If it turns out [cat's name] does have subclinical HCM, we can start them on an FDA conditionally approved medication for cats with early-stage HCM. It can slow disease progression, but detecting it early is what gives us that option.

## Owner asks

My cat seems totally fine. Why would we test?

That's actually the reason to check now. HCM is a 'silent' disease. By the time symptoms appear, the disease has often progressed past the point of management options being effective. Finding it in the early stages is when we can make the biggest difference.

## Owner asks

What happens if I do nothing about HCM?

HCM causes the heart muscle to gradually thicken over time, which makes the heart work harder than it should. That can lead to irregular heartbeats, blood clots, and in serious cases, fatal cardiac events. That's why staying on top of it matters.

**IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:** Do not use Felycin®-CA1 in cats with diabetes mellitus. Discontinue immediately if a cat receiving Felycin-CA1 is diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. Do not administer in cats with pre-existing liver disease. Administration of Felycin-CA1 with drugs that inhibit cytochrome P-450 3A4 or P-glycoprotein, such as calcium channel blockers, amiodarone, azoles, or cyclosporine, may increase risk for toxicity. Use caution when administering in cats with the MDR1 mutation or when administering concomitantly with another P-gp substrate. Treatment with Felycin-CA1 could impact the cat's ability to mount an adequate immune response to vaccinations.

The use of Felycin-CA1 in cats with viral disease like feline viral rhinotracheitis has not been evaluated. The safety and effectiveness of Felycin-CA1 has not been evaluated in cats with other cardiomyopathy phenotypes, in cats receiving beta blockers or corticosteroids, in cats with kidney disease, hyperthyroidism, or other significant systemic disease. The effectiveness of Felycin-CA1 has not been evaluated in sexually intact cats, therefore, should not be used in animals intended for breeding.

Treatment with Felycin-CA1 has been associated with the elevation of the transaminase enzymes, which include alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and aspartate aminotransferase (AST). Bloodwork should be repeated 1 to 2 months following initiation of treatment, and every 6-12 months thereafter. Discontinue treatment if transaminase values exceed 2X the upper limit of normal (ULN), if other liver enzymes besides ALT or AST are elevated, or if clinical signs of liver dysfunction are noted.

The most frequently observed adverse reactions in cats treated with Felycin-CA1 were cardiovascular in nature, relating to the progression of HCM, and included arrhythmia, congestive heart failure, syncope, and pericardial effusion. Other adverse reactions observed were lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and inappetence.

For use only in otherwise healthy cats with subclinical HCM in the absence of other causes of compensatory myocardial hypertrophy (e.g. systemic hypertension), current or historic symptoms of congestive heart failure, arterial thromboembolism, and severe LV outflow tract obstruction.

Not for human use. Keep out of reach of children. Contact a physician in case of accidental ingestion by humans. Pregnant and breastfeeding women should avoid contact with Felycin-CA1. People with known hypersensitivity to sirolimus should administer Felycin-CA1 with caution.

Keep Felycin-CA1 in a secure location out of reach of dogs, cats and other animals to prevent accidental ingestion or overdose.

Felycin-CA1 is conditionally approved by FDA pending a full demonstration of effectiveness under application number 141-604. See prescribing information for complete details regarding adverse events, warnings, and precautions.