

**St. Louis Cat Clinic  
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**Purrfect for Cats**  
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### **What is a clinical trial (also called clinical study)?**

A clinical trial is research which tries to answer specific questions about medications, vaccines, or new therapies. Clinical trials (also called medical research and research studies) are used to determine whether new drugs or treatments are both safe and effective. Carefully conducted clinical trials are the fastest and safest way to find treatments that work.

### **Why would I enroll my pet in a clinical trial?**

There are many benefits to enrolling in a study. The reason new treatments are proposed is often because basic research has suggested a reason why it might be more successful than what is currently recommended. Sometimes theories don't prove to be true but sometimes a new and exciting effective treatment for a disease is discovered. Beyond therapeutic reasons, there are often financial reasons to enroll in a study. Some studies offer free health services for your pet. Ethically, many people enroll their pets in trials because it allows us to help not only the patient but also future patients. It is comforting to know that by participating in a study you could be helping future pets with the same health problem.

### **What should I know about being part of a clinical trial?**

Your participation in a clinical trial is of great value to us. It is important to abide by all rules of the trial in order to generate results that are valid. Never give your pet any medication, even over-the-counter medication, without first consulting our doctors. Always be honest about your pet's exposure to other animals, medications, and environments before, during and after the trial. Always inform us of changes in your pet's health, even if you do not think it is relevant. If it helps you, write things down between visits and bring this list with you to the next visit. That way we can decide what information is relevant.

Without you we would not be able to make important advances in the treatment of pets. If you have any questions about any of our ongoing studies please call us at 314-832-2287.