urine culture, abdominal radiography and ultrasonography failed to specify the cause of LUTS. Data were collected from cats' owners by questionnaire and analysed by multivariate logistic regression.

RESULTS

Fifty-eight FIC cases and 281 randomly selected controls were surveyed. The prevalence of FIC was 1.77% (95%CI=1.36-2.18%). 91.4% and 94.0% of the cases and controls were housed entirely indoors, respectively. There was good evidence for a nonlinear association between age and FIC diagnosis ($P=0.009$); the odds of FIC diagnosis increased steeply until plateauing at around the age of five. Males had 2.47 times the odds of being diagnosed with FIC compared to females

(95%CI=1.25-4.89, $P=0.007$). Cats in an 'insufficient' environment were more likely to be diagnosed with FIC than those in a 'sufficient' environment (OR=3.32, 95%CI=1.77-6.23, $P<0.001$). Cats cohabiting with other cats had 2.06 times the odds of FIC diagnosis over those living alone (95%CI=1.07-3.92, $P=0.026$). Cats using non-clumping litter were more likely to be diagnosed with FIC than those using clumping litter (OR=2.60, 95%CI=1.37-4.92, $P=0.003$).

STATEMENT

The findings suggest that strategies to reduce stress from both the cat's physical and social environment could be considered in the prevention and management of FIC.

Influence of living in a single or multi-cat household on sickness and behaviour at age 2.5 years

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OBJECTIVES

Living in multi-cat households has been implicated as a risk factor for various feline diseases. The aim was to identify associations between multi-cat households and feline health and behaviour.

METHODS

Data from the Bristol Cats Study, a UK longitudinal study of pet cats based primarily on owner-completed questionnaires, were used. Cats were included if questionnaires one (2-4 months) through to five (2.5 years) were completed, and they had remained in either a single or

multi-cat household throughout. For owners with multiple eligible cats, one was included randomly.

Univariable and multivariable logistic regression models were used to analyse associations between single/multi-cat households and measures of health (obesity, cat bite abscesses), and behaviour (negative interactions with owner) where there was sufficient statistical power. Single cat households (SCHs) were compared with both agonistic multi-cat households (AMCHs: where agonistic behaviours occurred between cats) and non-agonistic multi-cat households (NMCHs).

RESULTS

Cats in NMCHs had decreased risk of negative interactions with the owner, compared to SCHs and AMCHs ($p<0.001$).

There was no evidence of a significant association between living in single/multi-cat households and the likelihood of obesity or abscesses.

STATEMENT

The health measures investigated were not significantly associated with MHCs, and the likelihood of negative interactions with the owner was influenced by the cats' relationships, rather than the multi-cat household itself. This indicates that the influence of household may be more nuanced than the categories 'single' or 'multi-cat' when considering the effects on some aspects of cats' health and behaviour.