

Cat and Mouse

◆ By Richard Hill, IT Editor.

VETSTREAM have launched the second of their species-specific encyclopaedic CD-ROM's. Called CD-FELIS the service provides dedicated feline information on medical and surgical techniques with ECG, radiographs, ultrasonographs, breed pictures, videos and hundreds of other illustrations. The system is claimed to be a complete information and teaching package covering all body systems and disciplines.

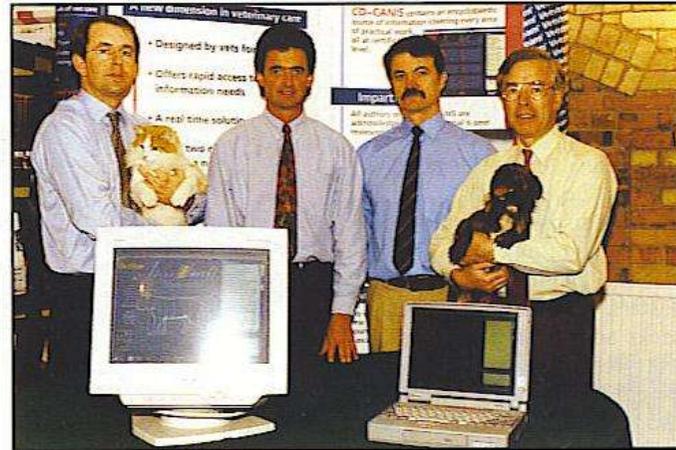
The increased interest in breed specific cats means that vets in general practice need more information on the conditions which these breeds are predisposed to. Increasingly vets are coming across rarer conditions, not previously recognised in general practice.

CD-FELIS aims to support practitioners in the diagnosis and treatment of such conditions by providing

instant access to 'the latest in veterinary science'. According to Vetstream, information from numerous expert sources has been brought together in one site to provide a complete picture of clinical disease in the cat. Commenting on the launch of CD-FELIS, Jos Belgrave, Managing Director, said: "The relative growth of cat ownership has increased dramatically over the past years compared to dogs." We believe CD-FELIS will support vets delivering what their clients increasingly require."

The system is designed to be the first-line reference point. 26 of the leading UK cat breeds are featured. The system is updated regularly with the addition of quarterly updates and a time-expiry system is built in to ensure that vets can no longer access obsolete information.

A practitioner using the



Members of the Vetstream team (left to right), Mark Johnston, Communications Director, Jos Belgrave, Managing Director, Jeremy Davies, Operations Director and John Grieve, Chairman.

system is guided through information about the condition, technique and the surgical and medical treatments. A decision tree takes the vet through a checklist of examinations, tests and diagnostic techniques. Using the results of these tests, the vet can gradually eliminate unlikely diseases and conditions and focus on those most likely to be causing the problem. In treating the condition, the vet can access

all the relevant data on available treatments and drugs.

Various options are offered to the user. The outline search page enables users to find information based on anatomical regions, specific body systems and disciplines. A directory categorises the information stored, and a matrix search page enables users to find information through a cross-referencing grid. The cascade drug