

**Supporting Information 1. Supplementary information regarding biopsies from the liver, pancreas, intestine.**

A minimum of five tissue samples, each one from the liver (1 cm x 1 cm x 1 cm from the distal portion of the left medial lobe), pancreas (0.3 cm x 0.3 cm x 0.3 cm from the distal portion of the right limb), duodenum (0.3 cm x 0.2 cm from the middle of its descending portion), jejunum, (0.3 cm x 0.2 cm from approximately 5-10 cm caudal to the duodenojejunal flexure), and ileum (0.3 cm x 0.2 cm from approximately 8-10 cm proximal to the colon) were collected during surgery from all cats examined.

**Supporting Information 2. Supplementary information regarding symptomatic cats that were excluded from the study.**

Twelve cats [12/39, (30.8%), 95% CI: (17.9-43.6%)] were diagnosed with neoplasms [alimentary lymphoma (4), adenocarcinoma of the intestine (2)] or other non-inflammatory conditions [idiopathic hepatic lipidosis (2), non specific reactive hepatitis (1), idiopathic lymphocytic leiomyositis (1), persistent symptoms without histopathological findings (2)] and were excluded from the study.

**Supporting Information 3. Supplementary information regarding asymptomatic cats that were excluded from the study.**

Eleven of the asymptomatic cats were removed from the study according to the exclusion criteria [parasitic enteritis with presence of *Cryptosporidium* spp. (1), and intestinal Coccidia (1) that escaped diagnosis with fecal parasitological examination before laparotomy, cystic endometrial hyperplasia (2), non specific reactive hepatitis

(1), nodular hyperplasia of the pancreas (2), focal hyperplasia/dysplasia of the pancreas (1), intra-abdominal adhesions (2) and lesions indicative of FIP (1)].