

CWSF 2019 - Fredericton, New Brunswick



Aidan Eskelund-Hansen

Black Cats: MC1R and the FIV Retrovirus

Challenge: Health

Category: Senior

Region: Manitoba First Nations

City: Winnipeg, MB

School: Lawrence Sinclair Memorial School

Abstract: My study is about a theory that black cats possibly have some form of resistance against disease. In that theory, it is possible that humans also have that resistance to disease because of a similarity to the genes responsible for that resistance.

Biography

My name is Aidan Eskelund-Hansen. My original project was simply what caused a cat to become black, I then found theories that suggest that the reason they are black is not because of camouflage - but because they have some form of resistance to FIV. My plans for further investigation is to compare two different cat genomes - one black and one not black, and see the similarities between the two and try to prove or disprove this theory. Advice I would give students who are thinking about doing a project? I would tell them that it does not matter if you are disproven or wrong in your study, that's what science is all about. Even something wrong contributes to science.