

CAT FLU

What is cat flu?

Cat flu is a general term used to describe an infectious disease which affects the upper respiratory tract of cats. It is highly contagious and can spread rapidly among cats. Cat flu can cause serious illness and in some cases be fatal especially in young kittens born to unvaccinated mothers, geriatric cats and cats whose immune systems are compromised (e.g. infected with FeLV or FIV). The death rate in young kittens can reach over 50% with severe infections.

What causes cat flu?

Cat flu is caused by 2 viruses. Bacteria may be involved when the animal is weakened by the primary viral infection. The viruses only affect cats not humans! Vaccination is the only protection; kittens should be vaccinated at 9 and 12 weeks of age followed by yearly boosters.

How do cats get infected?

The disease is transmitted through direct contact with infectious discharges from the eyes, nose and mouth; by contaminated litter pans, water bowls and human hands; and less easily by airborne droplets. The virus is stable outside the host for as short as 24 hours or as long as 10 days.

What are the signs of cat flu?

Signs include:

- acute onset of paroxysmal sneezing
- blocked nose
- runny eyes
- blisters or ulcers on the tongue
- fever
- not eating e.g. due to fever or because
- their nose is blocked so they cannot smell
- the food or due to ulcers/blisters on the
- tongue



How to treat cat flu?

There is no medication which can kill the viruses directly.

Nursing is the core treatment, aiming to get the patient strong enough so that they can fight off the infection:

- make sure that the cat is well hydrated: if they are not drinking well, you can syringe water into their mouths
- nutritional support: if they are not eating well, you can gently syringe feed special electrolyte solutions e.g. “GlucoLyte” or good quality liquid food e.g. Royal Canin Recovery Diet or Hill’s AD. Feeding strong smelling food like fish and sardines or warming the food helps since the smell may stimulate their appetite
- regular and gentle cleaning of their eyes and nose, e.g. with a moist cotton ball
- ease their breathing and reduce congestion in their respiratory tract by vapourisation and humidification of the atmosphere. The use of eucalyptus-based products e.g. Vicks can make the steam therapy even more effective.
- your vet may prescribe medication depending on the patient’s condition: e.g. antibiotics to protect against or treat secondary bacterial infections, antiviral and immune system stimulating drugs, medications to decrease nasal blockage, eye drops and vitamins.
- provide a stress-free environment and lots of TLC (Tender Loving Care)!

Will my cat get cat flu again if he/she has got it already?

The majority of cats that recover from the acute illness become carriers. When stressed, these carriers can shed the virus and they may get sick again.

**PLEASE PROTECT YOUR COMPANION FROM THESE SERIOUS VIRUSES
BY VACCINATING YOUR CAT EVERY YEAR**

貓瘟

什麼是貓瘟?

貓瘟是一個傳染病，傳染性非常高。主要影响貓隻的上呼吸道，跟人類感冒相似。病毒很容易在貓隻間傳播，受感染的貓隻，病情可輕可重。免疫系統較弱的貓隻，病情尤其嚴重。這些貓兒包括：年老、年幼、免疫系統較弱的動物(例如正在接受化療或感染了免疫系統病毒如 FIV/FeLV 的帶菌者) 死亡率可高達 50%。

什麼引致貓瘟及如何傳播?

貓瘟主要由兩種病毒所引致，這些病毒只會感染貓隻，對人類是沒有影响的。病毒通常透過飛沫，受污染的食物盤，水盤或直接接觸受感染動物的分泌物而傳播。人類接觸受感染貓隻的分泌物後再接觸其他貓隻亦可以將病毒傳播。這些病毒在環境中可生存達 10 天之久。

病徵

包括：打噴嚏、鼻塞、流鼻水、發燒、流眼水、眼瞼紅腫及口腔潰瘍等最為常見。貓隻可以因鼻塞嗅不到食物味道及口腔潰瘍引致痛楚而對食物失去興趣。



治療方法

跟人類感冒一樣，由於是病毒感染關係，所以是沒有葯物醫治的，只可依賴貓隻自己的免疫系統去對抗病毒。當免疫力得到提升，康復的機會自然提高。作為主人，我們可以做的包括：

- 貓隻自己不喝水時，可用小針筒將水直接放進牠的口裏，以免牠們出現缺水情況
- 若貓隻食慾不振，我們可將食物加熱一點，使之更香濃，亦可以餵牠們喝葡萄糖水或吃高營養液體狀貓糧，例如 Hill's a/d 或 Royal Canin Recovery food
- 定期為牠們用濕棉花清潔眼垢及鼻孔的分泌物
- 在我們洗澡時可把貓兒同放浴室內或加一些薄荷膏到熱水中，使他們吸到蒸氣，以減輕鼻塞情況。

如有需要，獸醫會處方葯物如眼葯水、維他命及抗生素等，減輕貓隻的不適。

有些貓兒在貓瘟後會變成帶菌者，當牠們過度緊張(例如為牠們洗澡後)或免疫力下降時便可能再次發病。所以作為主人，我們務必為牠們提供一個舒適清潔的居住環境及定期為牠們接受防疫注射。

為保障你的貓兒健康，請每年為牠們注射疫苗