



ONTARIO SPCA

AND HUMANE SOCIETY • PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873

Glossary of Terms

- **Antibodies-** A protein that is produced by the immune system and used to identify and deactivate any foreign bodies (ie. viruses, bacterial)
- **Antibiotic-** An pharmaceutical agent that kills or inhibits the growth of a microorganism
- **Antimicrobial-** An pharmaceutical agent that kills and/or inhibits the growth of organisms
- **Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide** –A disinfectant which kills both non-enveloped and enveloped viruses
- **Asymptomatic-** (of a disease or suspected disease) without symptoms; providing no subjective evidence of existence
- **Biosecurity-** Set of preventative measures designed to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious disease, quarantined pests, invasive alien species, living modified organisms
- **CBC-** Complete Blood Count
- **Centrifugation-** A process that involves the use of the centrifugal force for the separation of mixtures with a centrifuge, used in industry and in laboratory settings
- **Contagious-** Transmittable disease from one to another
- **Dyspnea-** Difficulty breathing
- **Disinfectants-** A chemical agent which kills harmful microorganisms- does not necessarily remove dirt or grease. Inactivated by organic material to some extent and must be applied to a clean surface to work effectively
- **ELISA Test-** Diagnostic test
- **Fomite-** An object or item that is able to carry infectious organisms and transfer them from one body to another
- **Geriatric-** Senior animal
- **Intake-** Admittance into the shelter
- **Incubation Period-** The time between exposure to a pathogenic organism and when the signs/symptoms are evident
- **Isolation-** A physically isolated area in which sick or infectious animals are housed in the shelter
- **Intranasal-** In the nose
- **Inanimate Object-** Not endowed with life, non-living

- **Immunocompromised-** a state of decreased immune system function caused by administration of immunosuppressive drugs, by irradiation, by malnutrition, or by certain processes rendering the person more vulnerable to infectious diseases
- **Nebulization-** Conversion into an aerosol or spray
- **Necropsy-** Post mortem examination
- **Observation Room-** A separate room in which new arrivals are housed for an observatory period (watching for signs of disease, administering treatments etc) before going up for adoption
- **Parenteral-** A route of administration that involves piercing the skin or mucous membrane
- **Pathogen-** An agent that causes disease, especially a living microorganism such as bacterium or fungus
- **Prevail-** An accelerated hydrogen peroxide disinfectant
- **Quarantine-** Voluntary or compulsory isolation, typically to contain the spread of disease
- **Sterilization-** The removal of microorganisms to achieve a sterile environment
- **Subcutaneous-** the innermost layer of the integumentary system (skin)
- **Spot Cleaning-** To remove and/or clean ONLY areas/items that are soiled or dirty, thereby maintaining the cats “presence” (scent) as much as possible. This will significantly minimize the cats stress.
- **Vaccine-** A biological suspension that helps improve the immunity towards a certain disease
- **Viremic-** Presence of a virus in the blood
- **Zoonoses-** A zoonotic disease is an infection that is naturally transmitted from vertebrate animals to humans