Ontario SPCA

**Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV) Protocol:**

### Basic Disease Information:
- Also known as *feline distemper – caused by feline parvovirus*
- Panleukopenia virus causes vomiting, diarrhea, and can cause sudden death in cats.
- The virus is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route (including through exposure to objects/clothing/hands contaminated with virus from feces).
- It is very durable unless inactivated by an effective disinfectant, and can persist in the environment for months or even years.
- Kittens are at highest risk for this disease, and adult cats with current vaccinations are at very low risk.
- **Incubation Period:** Usually 5 – 7 days (Generally less than 14)
- **Shedding Period:** 2 – 3 days post-exposure
- No carrier state
- We vaccinate all cats on intake against Panleukopenia (part of the MLV FVRCP core vaccine)
  - **Adults:** Revaccinate once in 2 – 3 weeks, if still with us in the shelter.
  - **Kittens:** begin at 5 - 6 weeks of age and revaccinate every 14 days until 18 weeks old.
- MLV vaccination may cause a weak false positive parvo test within about 5-12 days after vaccination.

### General Policy:
Treatment of FPV infected animals should only be undertaken in a shelter if sufficient facilities exist to isolate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. These animals must be examined by a Veterinarian and have their treatment plan prescribed by the Veterinarian.

If you see or suspect any of the following signs:
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dehydration
- Sudden death/found dead in cage (especially suspicious in adolescent to adult cats with or without concurrent URI)

Follow these next steps:
Begin and Maintain Documentation

Don Personal Protective Equipment

Isolate Case

Appropriate Signage

Report suspicion immediately to Branch Manager in person/by phone; Branch Manager to report to Regional and Shelter Health & Wellness by email, if necessary, according to the “Disease Reporting Protocol”

Euthanize

Veterinarian Consultation

Appropriate Cleaning Protocols

Treatment

Appropriate Animal Disposal & Removal

Appropriate Cleaning

Healthy Animal

Re-Enter General Animal Population

Healthy Animal
Diagnosis:

When to test:
1. Any cat with diarrhea or vomiting that is also exhibiting signs of systemic disease.
2. Any cat that has had a known exposure to panleukopenia within the preceding 14 days that then develops diarrhea.
3. Except as noted above, do not test cats that have diarrhea but are bright, alert, active, eating or drinking normally.

Who performs the test: Veterinary medical staff or Branch staff trained in use of the test.

How to test: In-House fecal ELISA tests (ie. IDEXX SNAP test)

Where Housed:
- Isolate all positive cases in a separate room used only for this purpose (ie. Not in a bathroom)
  - If no isolation room is available, isolate separately at a Vet Hospital
- Quarantine exposed cats for 14 days
- If neither isolation nor quarantine are an option, the only other humane alternative is euthanasia.
- Work with a Veterinarian knowledgeable in shelter medicine to develop a plan for other cats in the facility

How cleaned:
1. Don proper PPE for ANYONE coming in contact with a suspected animal or entering isolation - Gloves, gown, booties.
2. Continue with your Branch’s cleaning protocol as approved by the Department of Shelter Health & Wellness. Spot cleaning is always preferred unless the cage is heavily soiled.
3. Staff must wear full PPE (Gloves gown, booties) in any room identified as a quarantine room.
4. Disinfect using (whichever is your normal disinfecting agent):
   - Oxidizing Agents: Such as Trifactant, Virkon, Accel, Peroxigard or Butcher’s Blend
5. Two consecutive cleanings (cleaned, disinfected, dried) within a short period of time (ie. 24hrs) is sufficient, prior to re-use of cage.

** As a reminder where staff is responsible for cleaning multiple housing units, the sequence they should be cleaned is: From clean to dirty,

1. Adoptable kittens/puppies
2. Adoptable adult animals
3. Stray/Quarantine kittens/puppies
4. Stray/Quarantine adult animals
5. Isolation areas
Tips:
- FPV is an extremely contagious parvo virus among cats, in which kittens are most severely affected.
- It can destroy white blood cells, which makes the cats susceptible to secondary infections.
- In utero infections do occur, potentially leading to the birth of kittens with neurological conditions.

Which animals to treat:
- Treatment of FPV infected animals should only be undertaken in a shelter if sufficient facilities exist to isolate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. These animals must be examined by a Veterinarian and have their treatment plan prescribed by the Veterinarian.
- Other options could include off-site veterinary clinic or transfer to another shelter with sufficient facilities.
- All animals should be treated, as long as they are a good adoption candidate, there is appropriate isolation (separate room isolated from different species) and adequate resources to support treatment and housing.

Treatment:
- Treatment needs to be done under Veterinary Supervision.
- Re-vaccinate all cats that have not been vaccinated in the last 14 days.
- Supportive care (including broad spectrum antibiotics for secondary infections and deworming, fluid therapy if necessary).

Monitoring:
- ACA is responsible for daily monitoring and proper documentation.
- The Branch Manager or Senior Animal Care member is responsible for scheduling veterinary rechecks.

Recovery/Treatment Failure:
- To be determined by the supervising veterinarian.

Adoption:
- Recovered cats will be placed back up for adoption after they have SNAP tested negative and successfully quarantined for 2 weeks.
- Exposed cats will be up for adoption after being successfully quarantined for 2 weeks.
- Continue vaccinating kittens following the normal vaccination schedule.
Documentation:
- All branches are required to provide pertinent information as per the Ontario SPCA Adoption Sharing and Caring Policy

References: Koret Centre, Shelter Medicine – UC Davis
(http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/feline-panleukopenia)