

CAT FLU

Understanding Feline Herpesvirus & Calicivirus

Cat Flu is a highly contagious respiratory disease caused by Feline Herpesvirus (FHV-1) and Feline Calicivirus (FCV). It commonly affects kittens, unvaccinated cats, and cats living in multi-cat households.



WHAT IS CAT FLU?

Cat Flu is similar to a "cold" in people but can be much more serious, particularly in kittens and older cats.

The two most common causes are:

- ✓ Feline Herpesvirus (FHV-1)
- ✓ Feline Calicivirus (FCV)



Many infected cats become lifelong carriers and may experience flare-ups during times of stress or illness.



DID YOU KNOW?

A cat can carry Herpesvirus for life, even after recovering from symptoms.

Stress, illness, boarding, or moving house may trigger future flare-ups.

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RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- ✓ Sneezing
- ✓ Runny nose
- ✓ Watery or swollen eyes
- ✓ Eye ulcers
- ✓ Drooling
- ✓ Mouth ulcers
- ✓ Fever
- ✓ Loss of appetite
- ✓ Lethargy



Kittens can become seriously ill very quickly.



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HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Cat Flu spreads through:

- Direct contact with infected cats
- Sneezing and respiratory droplets
- Shared food and water bowls
- Bedding and grooming equipment
- Human hands and clothing

The viruses can spread rapidly in multi-cat environments.



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WHICH CATS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Higher-risk cats include:

- Kittens
- Unvaccinated cats
- Shelter and rescue cats
- Boarding cattery cats
- Elderly cats
- Cats with weakened immune systems



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HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may diagnose Cat Flu based on:

- Clinical signs
- Physical examination
- Medical history
- Laboratory testing (in some cases)

Testing is not always required when signs are typical.



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HOW IS IT TREATED?

Treatment may include:

- Supportive care
- Fluids
- Appetite stimulants
- Eye medications
- Antibiotics for secondary infections
- Hospitalisation in severe cases



Most cats recover with appropriate treatment and nursing care.

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CAN CAT FLU BE PREVENTED?

The best protection is vaccination.

- ✓ Keep vaccinations up to date
- ✓ Isolate sick cats
- ✓ Practise good hygiene
- ✓ Clean bowls and bedding regularly
- ✓ Minimise stress where possible



Vaccination does not always prevent infection but greatly reduces disease severity.



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LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Some cats may experience:

- Chronic sneezing
- Recurring eye infections
- Nasal discharge
- Ongoing respiratory issues
- Recurrent flare-ups during stress

Many cats live normal lives despite being carriers.



ADDITIONAL TIPS



Vaccination is the best protection



Kittens are most vulnerable



Early veterinary treatment improves comfort and recovery



Isolate affected cats to reduce spread



EVERY CAT COUNTS

If your cat develops sneezing, eye discharge, loss of appetite, or difficulty breathing, contact your veterinarian promptly.

Early assessment can help prevent complications and improve recovery.



**EARLY CARE
MAKES A BIG
DIFFERENCE**