

PANLEUKOPENIA IN CATS

Understanding Feline Enteritis (Feline Parvovirus)

Panleukopenia, also known as Feline Enteritis or Feline Parvovirus, is a highly contagious and potentially life-threatening viral disease. It primarily affects kittens and unvaccinated cats and can cause severe gastrointestinal illness and immune system suppression.

Vaccination is highly effective and remains the best protection against this disease.

PANLEUKOPENIA
IS HIGHLY
CONTAGIOUS BUT
HIGHLY PREVENTABLE
THROUGH
VACCINATION.



WHAT IS PANLEUKOPENIA?

Panleukopenia is caused by the feline parvovirus.

The virus attacks rapidly dividing cells in the body, particularly:

- 🐾 Intestinal cells
- 🐾 Bone marrow cells
- 🐾 Immune system cells
- 🐾 Developing kittens during pregnancy

The disease can progress rapidly and requires immediate veterinary attention.



DID YOU KNOW?

The panleukopenia virus can survive in the environment for many months and is resistant to many common disinfectants.

Even indoor cats can be exposed through contaminated shoes, clothing, carriers, or objects.



1

RECOGNISE THE SIGNS

Common signs include:

- 🐾 Severe lethargy
- 🐾 Loss of appetite
- 🐾 Vomiting
- 🐾 Diarrhoea
- 🐾 Fever
- 🐾 Dehydration
- 🐾 Weight loss
- 🐾 Abdominal pain
- 🐾 Sudden collapse



Kittens can deteriorate very quickly and may become critically ill within a short period.



2

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

The virus spreads through:

- 🐾 Direct contact with infected cats
- 🐾 Contact with infected faeces
- 🐾 Contaminated food and water bowls
- 🐾 Bedding and litter trays
- 🐾 Clothing, shoes, and equipment
- 🐾 Contaminated environments

The virus is extremely contagious.



3

WHICH CATS ARE MOST AT RISK?

Higher-risk cats include:

- 🐾 Unvaccinated kittens
- 🐾 Shelter and rescue cats
- 🐾 Multi-cat households
- 🐾 Stray or feral cats
- 🐾 Cats with unknown vaccination history

Young kittens are particularly vulnerable.



4

HOW IS IT DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may perform:

- 🐾 Physical examination
- 🐾 Blood tests
- 🐾 Faecal testing
- 🐾 Parvovirus testing
- 🐾 Assessment of vaccination history

A very low white blood cell count is commonly seen with panleukopenia.



5

HOW IS IT TREATED?

Treatment may include:

- 🐾 Hospitalisation
- 🐾 Intravenous fluids
- 🐾 Anti-nausea medications
- 🐾 Nutritional support
- 🐾 Antibiotics for secondary infections
- 🐾 Intensive nursing care

There is no specific cure for the virus itself, so treatment focuses on supportive care.



6

CAN IT BE PREVENTED?

Yes. Vaccination is highly effective.

Prevention includes:

- 🐾 Keeping vaccinations up to date
- 🐾 Avoiding exposure to infected cats
- 🐾 Proper disinfection of contaminated areas
- 🐾 Isolating infected cats
- 🐾 Routine veterinary health care

Vaccination remains the best defence.



7

WHAT IS THE PROGNOSIS?

Prognosis depends on:

- 🐾 Age of the cat
- 🐾 Severity of illness
- 🐾 Speed of diagnosis
- 🐾 Response to treatment

Cats receiving prompt veterinary care have a significantly better chance of recovery.



ADDITIONAL TIPS

- 🛡️ Vaccination saves lives
- 👶 Kittens are most at risk
- 🧼 Good hygiene helps reduce spread
- 🏥 Early treatment improves survival.



EVERY CAT COUNTS

If your cat develops vomiting, diarrhoea, severe lethargy, or stops eating, seek veterinary attention immediately.

Panleukopenia is a true emergency and early treatment can make a significant difference.

