

FIP (FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS)

Understanding Feline FIP

Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP) is a serious disease caused by a mutation of feline coronavirus (FCoV). It can affect almost any cat, but kittens and young cats are most at risk.

Early recognition and prompt veterinary care can help improve outcomes.




FIP DOES NOT
AFFECT PEOPLE
OR DOGS AND IS
ONLY SEEN IN
CATS.



WHAT IS FIP?

FIP occurs when a normally harmless feline coronavirus (FCoV) mutates inside a cat and triggers an abnormal immune response.

This causes inflammation that can affect the abdomen, chest, eyes, brain, and other organs.

FIP is not directly passed from cat to cat. The virus must mutate inside the cat.



DID YOU KNOW?

Many cats have been exposed to FCoV, but only a small percentage will develop FIP.

Good hygiene and reducing stress can help lower the risk of infection and mutation.



1 HOW DOES FIP DEVELOP?

The process is not fully understood, but may involve:

- ✓ Exposure to feline coronavirus (FCoV)
- ✓ Mutation of the virus inside the cat
- ✓ Immune system overreaction
- ✓ Widespread inflammation affecting blood vessels and organs
- ✓ Symptoms develop depending on which parts of the body are affected



FIP cannot be diagnosed from a single test. It requires a combination of tests and clinical findings.



2 TYPES OF FIP

FIP can appear in two main forms:

- **Wet (Effusive) FIP**
Fluid builds up in the abdomen or around the chest, causing swelling and breathing problems.
- **Dry (Non-effusive) FIP**
Affects organs such as the eyes, brain, kidneys or liver without fluid buildup.



WET FIP



DRY FIP

3 SIGNS OF FIP

Signs can vary widely and may come and go. Common signs include:

- 🐾 Fever that doesn't respond to antibiotics
- 🐾 Loss of appetite and weight loss
- 🐾 Lethargy and weakness
- 🐾 Swollen abdomen
- 🐾 Difficulty breathing
- 🐾 Eye changes (cloudiness, inflammation, colour changes)
- 🐾 Neurological signs (seizures, unsteady gait)
- 🐾 Jaundice (yellow gums or skin)
- 🐾 Vomiting or diarrhoea
- 🐾 Pale gums

If your cat shows any of these signs, please see your veterinarian.



4 HOW IS FIP DIAGNOSED?

Your veterinarian may recommend:

- Physical examination and history
- Blood tests
- Imaging (X-rays or ultrasound)
- Fluid analysis (if fluid is present)
- Specialised tests (PCR testing, coronavirus antibody tests)



Diagnosing FIP can be challenging and often involves ruling out other diseases.



5 IS FIP TREATABLE?

Yes. Advances in treatment mean many cats with FIP can now be treated successfully.

Treatment involves specific antiviral medications prescribed by your veterinarian.



Early diagnosis and starting treatment as soon as possible offer the best chance of a positive outcome.

6 CAN FIP BE PREVENTED?

While FIP cannot be completely prevented, you can reduce the risk:

- 🐾 Keep litter trays clean
- 🐾 Provide good nutrition
- 🐾 Reduce stress and overcrowding
- 🐾 Quarantine new cats before introduction
- 🐾 Regular veterinary check-ups



7 WHAT TO EXPECT DURING TREATMENT

Treatment can take several weeks. Your cat may need:

- ♥ Daily oral medication
- ♥ Regular veterinary check-ups and blood tests
- ♥ Monitoring for side effects
- ♥ Lots of love and a calm, stress-free environment



Many cats improve significantly with treatment and can return to a happy, healthy life.



EVERY CAT COUNTS

If your cat is unwell, trust your instincts and seek veterinary care early. Early action can make all the difference.

