



making the animal world a better place

638 East Willow St. Scottsboro, AL 35768
Phone: 800.869.4789
Email: education@provetlogic.com

Hot Zone Bulletin

SUBJECT: PANLEUKOPENIA (FELINE DISTEMPER) IN CATS & KITTENS

Feline Panleukopenia, also known as feline distemper, is caused by a highly contagious, life-threatening virus. Kittens and unvaccinated cats are susceptible to the virus and virtually all cats will come in contact with it at some point. The disease can be mild to fatal and is easily preventable with regular vaccinations.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA VIRUS (FPV)?

Panleukopenia (feline distemper) is caused by a virus very similar to the one that causes parvovirus disease in dogs. It is very stable in the environment and can survive years at room temperature. It survives well in lower temperatures as well, but can be killed by disinfectants specifically tested and approved effective against FPV.

HOW IS THE PANLEUKOPENIA VIRUS TRANSMITTED?

FPV is most commonly transmitted when a susceptible cat has contact with feces or urine of infected cats. Infected cats shed the virus in their feces and urine up to 6 weeks after they recover. FPV can also be spread by contact with urine-or-feces-contaminated items such as food bowls, water dishes, clothing, shoes, hands, bedding, and litter boxes.

The panleukopenia virus is also transmitted from the mother to the developing kittens within her uterus. It can also be spread by fleas.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF FELINE DISTEMPER?

The symptoms of panleukopenia can be similar to those seen in dogs with parvo or canine distemper (fever, vomiting, diarrhea, and seizures), which is why the disease is sometimes called "feline distemper." Panleukopenia in young unvaccinated kittens is usually fatal.

At the onset of infection, the virus impacts the lymph nodes, bone marrow and intestine. It attacks the production of white blood cells in the bone marrow causing a drastic drop in the white blood cell count. This is where the name of the virus comes from: pan (all) leuko (white) penia (deficiency). White blood cells are responsible for fighting infection, so the cat's immune system becomes seriously compromised without them and cannot contend with the other symptoms.

Young cats: Many older cats who are exposed to feline panleukopenia virus do not show symptoms. However, young (3-5 months old) unvaccinated cats can become seriously ill. The incubation period (time from exposure to the virus to the development of symptoms) is 4-5 days. The onset of symptoms is sudden and cats will start out with fevers of 104-107 F, depression, and will not eat. These symptoms appear so suddenly, some owners think their pet has been poisoned.

Cats who survive the symptoms for longer than five days will usually survive, but complete recovery (regaining of weight) may take several weeks.



Professional

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1048 Stinson Drive, Reading PA 19605
Phone: 800.869.4789
Email: education@provetlogic.com

June 1, 2010 - Page 2 of 2

Hot Zone Bulletin

HOW IS PANLEUKOPENIA TREATED?

The treatment for panleukopenia is basically supportive care. Fluids are given intravenously or subcutaneously to correct the dehydration. Blood transfusions may be given to severely effected cats. Medications would be given to stop the vomiting. Antibiotics may be given to protect the sick cat from developing a bacterial infection.

HOW IS PANLEUKOPENIA PREVENTED AND CONTROLLED?

Vaccination of kittens at regular intervals is the most important way to protect cats from acquiring a panleukopenia virus infection.

The environments of cats with panleukopenia should be considered contaminated with the virus. **A solution of 1.25 ounces of ProVetLogic Professional to one gallon of water should be used to disinfect floors, litter boxes, cages, and other items.** Remember that this virus can last for years in the environment. A kitten should not be introduced into a cattery or household unless he has received his series of vaccinations.

EXTRA TIP: PROPER SPRAY NOZZLE SETTING

It is well known and understood that a cat's olfactory and respiratory systems are extremely sensitive. So to avoid an Upper Respiratory Illness (URI) due to chemical inhalation, use the course or stream setting on the spray trigger nozzle. Applying a chemical solution using the mist or fine setting on the spray trigger nozzle will allow the overspray to migrate to other areas of the room.

A RECOMMENDED SOLUTION:



Efficacy Is Everything!

With Organic Soil Tolerance for use in Veterinary Clinics, Pet Shops, Kennels, Animal Care Facilities, Tack Shops, Animal Life Science Laboratories, Breeding and Grooming Establishments, Zoos, Food Processing Facilities and Farms.

CANINE EFFICACY

Bordetella (Kennel Cough)
Canine Parvovirus (CPV)
Canine Adenovirus
Canine Distemper
Canine Parainfluenza Virus
Canine Hepatitis
Infectious Bronchitis Virus
Rabies Virus

FELINE EFFICACY

Feline Calicivirus (virulent strain)
Feline Infectious Peritonitis
Feline leukemia virus
Feline Panleukopenia
Feline Picornavirus
Feline Rhinotracheitis

AVIAN EFFICACY

Avian Influenza A H9N2
Avian Laryngotracheitis
Avian Influenza A H5N1 Virus
Avian Reovirus

Please see product specification sheet for a complete efficacy list.