



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4 • APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER

FELINE UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION

Did you know that your feline family member can get a cold, just like you? Your kitty's nose, throat, and sinuses (referred to as the *upper respiratory system*) are susceptible to infection caused by a variety of viruses and bacteria.

Sneezing, congestion, coughing, runny nose or eyes, nasal discharge, lethargy, and loss of appetite are some of the more common symptoms of an upper respiratory infection (URI). More serious symptoms include rapid or open-mouth breathing, drooling or gagging, and fever.

Although we may not think of a cold as something to be terribly concerned about, an untreated upper respiratory infection can become serious, so timely diagnosis and treatment are important. First, a complete physical exam will be done. Depending on the findings, lab tests may be recommended, including a complete blood count (CBC), chemistry tests to evaluate organ function and blood sugar levels, or a urine test to screen for a urinary tract infection. Cultures from the mouth, throat, or nose may be sent to a laboratory for review. Chronic (repeated) infection may require additional tests such as radiographs to evaluate the lungs and sinuses.

Treatment for upper respiratory infection may include antibiotics, antihistamines, nasal or eye drops, subcutaneous fluids, nutritional support, rest, and isolation from

other pets. For kitties experiencing more severe symptoms, your veterinarian may also recommend exposure to a humidifier, appetite stimulants, or syringe feeding.

Upper respiratory infections are quite contagious from feline to feline, due to viruses and bacteria present in saliva and eye/nose discharge. To help prevent the spread of infection to other kitties, be sure to wash your hands frequently, especially after petting the kitty with the infection. To help guard against introducing an upper respiratory infection into your home, when you come into contact with outside cats, or when visiting friends who have kitties, always clean your hands and clothing before petting your kitty.

And because a majority of upper respiratory problems are caused by the feline calicivirus and feline herpesvirus, you can easily help guard against these viruses with a PUREVAX FVRCP vaccination. Please ask us for more information, and don't miss our great special offer below!

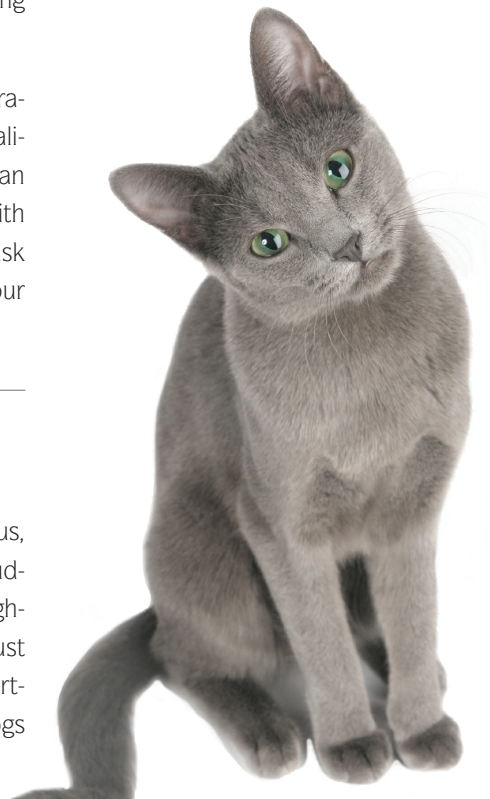
PROTECT YOUR KITTY FROM HEARTWORM DISEASE

Soon the rainy season will be behind us, and mosquitoes will begin breeding in puddles and pools of stagnant water throughout our city. These pests aren't just annoying; they are also carriers of heartworm disease, which can affect both dogs and cats.

Heartworm disease is transmitted by mosquito bites; even indoor kitties are at risk of infection. Fortunately, there are a number of simple ways to protect your kitty. If your kitty is not already taking monthly heartworm preventative, please talk with us about which medication is best for him or her.

APRIL SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through April 30, receive **\$25 off** when your kitty receives a **PUREVAX FVRCP vaccination with an annual examination!** Please give us a call for more information or to schedule your appointment.



Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.

Sacramento Cat Hospital • 4115 Manzanita Avenue, Carmichael • (916) 488-4161 • info@sacramentocathospital.com
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