



YOUR CAT'S HEALTH, OUR PASSION • VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7 • JULY 2011 NEWSLETTER

FELINE HERPESVIRUS

Feline herpesvirus type 1, also called FHV-1 or rhinotracheitis, is a common virus affecting the eyes and upper respiratory system of an infected feline. Once the virus has been contracted, the kitty is susceptible to reoccurring outbreaks throughout his or her lifetime, so diagnosis and treatment are important.

Feline herpesvirus can be transmitted from kitty to kitty through secretions from the mouth, nose, and eyes. (It is not transmissible to other animal species or to humans.) Symptoms tend to be related to the upper respiratory system, and can include watery eyes, conjunctivitis (inflammation of the membrane lining the eyelid), eye ulcers, nasal discharge, sneezing, rhinitis (inflammation of the nose), congestion, coughing, and fever.

When symptoms are seen, a physical exam and further lab tests are recommended. Testing may include a respiratory viral panel, which includes swabs from the throat and eye areas. However, because the virus can shed intermittently, test results may vary, so often treatment will begin based solely on symptoms.

Depending on the severity of your kitty's symptoms, treatment may include antibiotic and/or antiviral eye drops or ointments, antihistamines, and systemic antibiotics. Kitties experiencing a herpes flare-up may also need supportive care such as exposure to a humidifier, nasal drops, and, if congestion is severe, appetite stimulants or syringe feeding.

For kitties experiencing feline herpesvirus symptoms, we usually recommend the amino acid supplement L-Lysine; the typical dosage is 500mg twice daily. L-Lysine comes in several appealing forms, including chews, crunchy treats, gel, and flavored powder to mix into food.

It's important to take precautions to help prevent spread of the virus. The PUREVAX FVRCP vaccination guards against three viruses: feline herpesvirus, feline calicivirus, and feline panleukopenia. Assuming your kitten is healthy, the vaccination should be administered at 8 weeks of age. A follow-up booster is also needed; typically two vaccines are administered the first year. After that, the vaccine is administered annually.

If you come into contact with other cats outside, or when visiting friends, always clean your hands and clothing before petting your kitty, which will help limit exposure to the virus.

Most cats weather herpes outbreaks well, but extra care must be given to kittens and elderly felines who are more vulnerable to complications. If your kitty experiences any symptoms noted above, please contact us.

HELP MAKE MEDICATION TIME MORE APPEALING

While some kitties really don't seem to mind when it's time to take their medicine, for other cats (and their owners) it can be a stressful, unpleasant experience.

Fortunately, the scientifically-tested FLAVORx Veterinary Flavoring System can easily turn most pills, capsules, and liquid medications



into a tasty and easy-to-swallow liquid solution. With many flavors to choose from, your kitty's medication can be customized to suit his or her individual tastes. This can help eliminate the struggle of medicating your kitty—and may even turn a stressful experience into one that your pet enjoys.

Flavors include crispy bacon, fish chowder, grilled tuna, Red Angus beef, salmon steak, chicken pot pie, and mom's banana bread. Please ask us for more information.

KEEP YOUR CAT SAFE FROM HEARTWORM DISEASE

Hot Sacramento days are here again, and mosquitoes are busily breeding in pools, birdbaths, and other watery places throughout our city. These pests aren't just annoying; they are 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 keep your kitty safe from heartworms. If your kitty is not already taking monthly heartworm preventative, please talk with us about which medication is best for him or her.

JULY SPECIAL OFFERS FOR OUR READERS

Through July 31, receive **free sample L-Lysine treats**, which may help control your kitty's feline herpesvirus symptoms.

Also through July 31, receive a **free heartworm antibody test** (while supplies last) when you bring your kitty to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam.

Please ask us for more information.

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 staff members.

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