

CAT DISEASES

URV (Upper Respiratory Virus, aka the 'kitty cold')

Symptoms: frequent sneezing, runny nose and eyes

Transmission: cat coming into contact with discharge from nose or eyes of infected cat, directly (inhaling an infected cat's sneeze or grooming an infected cat) or indirectly (infected cat sneezes on your clothing and the other cat comes in contact with you)

Treatment: antibiotics can treat secondary symptoms, otherwise ensure cat eats and continues drinking and take them to the vet if they begin losing weight; monitor closely. Vaccination is the best prevention.

Notes: disease can remain dormant for long periods, and then exhibit when cat is under stress (ie moving to a new home, new baby, new pet in the home).

Distemper (Feline Panleukopenia)

Symptoms: quick onset, depression and lethargy, anorexia, vomiting and diarrhea, may be blood in diarrhea. Severe dehydration.

Transmission: cat coming into contact with the vomit, feces, or urine of infected cat, directly and indirectly.

Treatment: high mortality rate, supportive therapy with fluids, antibiotics and vitamins. The older the cat the better their chances of survival. Vaccination is the best prevention.

Notes: high fatality rate in kittens, death within 12hrs to 3-5 days. High distemper season in the Calgary in fall, September and October.

Feline Leukemia Virus

Symptoms: a retrovirus like HIV; causes a wide range of diseases/symptoms so difficult to spot, however affected cats have suppressed immune systems so should only be indoor cats.

Transmission: by fluid through bite wounds (saliva), and breeding.

Treatment: no treatment. Vaccination is the best prevention.

Notes: vets can perform a blood test for this disease, and it's a good idea to have this test done on the new incoming if you already have one at home.

Rabies

Symptoms: affects the nervous system so you may see behavioural changes, drooling, paralysis, and aggression. Usually display within 3-8 weeks, however may be as long as 6-12 months to appear.

Transmission: usually by saliva (ie bite wounds). Most reported rabies transmissions are through infected cats, not bats!

Treatment: If your pet is currently vaccinated, they should receive a booster vaccination immediately, be isolated from contact with others animals, and observed for at least 6 months. Vaccination is the best prevention.

Notes: this disease can be transmitted to humans. If you suspect you were bitten by a rabies infected animal, be sure to see a doctor and get yourself a rabies shot. Catching and submitting the animal that bit you to a vet can be helpful for determining infection. As this disease affects the nervous system, early diagnosis is important.

The above information is provided as a guide only. Neither Cats Ahoy Mobile Adoption Centre, nor any of its affiliated organizations, may be held liable for the health of your cat in regards to any of the above information. Please consult with your veterinarian if your pet seems ill or is acting different in any way, such as avoiding contact, not eating or drinking, runny eyes or nose, lethargy, losing weight, difficulty going to the bathroom etc. **If your cat is having trouble breathing see a vet immediately! It's a sign of something is seriously wrong, and every minute matters!**