



FVP can be transmitted on clothing!

Feline Panleukopenia

What You Should Know

Background

Feline panleukopenia, also referred to as Feline Parvo and Feline Distemper, is a highly contagious, often fatal, viral disease of cats that is seen worldwide. Kittens are affected most severely. The virus is very resistant; it can persist for 1 year at room temperature in the environment if protected in organic material (*Biofilm*).

How is Feline Panleukopenia transmitted?

The virus is shed through the cat's urine, stool, and nasal secretions, with infection occurring when susceptible cats come into contact with these secretions. An infected cat can shed the virus for a relatively short period of time (1 to 2 days), but the virus can last up to a year in the environment.

Any materials used on or for infected cats such as bedding, cages, food dishes, clothing and hands can harbor the virus and transmit it to other cats.

What cats are at risk?

Since Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV) is found in virtually any environment, all cats and kittens are exposed to the virus at some point in their lives. The most susceptible to FPV are young kittens, sick cats, and cats that are unvaccinated. Death from FPV is most commonly seen in cats 3 to 5 months of age.

How can the spread of Feline Panleukopenia be prevented or limited in the cattery environment?

Implementing an effective disease prevention protocol in the cattery environment, and regardless of the source, presents challenges unlike those found in the canine care environment. Here are a few things to consider, when developing and implementing an effective disease prevention protocol.

1. **Develop and implement a managed plan of action:** The development of a plan of action for controlling the spread of Feline Panleukopenia and other infectious agents, should include the setup and use of an Isolation Room (*please see the next page for more information*).
2. **Select the proper cleaner disinfectant:** When selecting a disinfectant for use against a targeted infectious agent it is important to review the product's label, Efficacy Data or E.P.A. Stamped Approved label. Feline Panleukopenia Virus, or other select targeted infectious agents, should be listed within this documentation. If not, that means that the E.P.A. has not tested and/or approved the product for use against that targeted agent. The E.P.A. is the only agency that can approve the efficacy of disinfectants sold in the United States.
3. **Minimize the migration of chemical sprays and vapors:** Cats and kittens have a very low tolerance to strong chemical smells and vapors. Chemicals that have either a very high pH or low pH value can cause upper respiratory distress or exacerbate existing upper respiratory illness. Here are some basic ideas to help minimize the migration of chemical vapors and reduce the chance of upper respiratory distress.
 - a) **"If it smells strong to you, it may be too strong to use around cats and kittens"!** This is a good rule-of-thumb when selecting cleaners and disinfectants for the cattery environment.
 - b) Review the product's Safety Data Sheet (SDS) to determine the pH of the product. If the product has a pH of 2 or lower (acidic) or a pH of 13 or higher (alkaline), it may produce vapors and/or a smell that is too strong for cats and kittens. Bleach and other chlorine-based products should also be avoided.
 - c) When using a spray bottle, set the sprayer to coarse or stream. Misting a product will make it easy for the vapors to migrate from one area of the room to the next.
 - d) If possible, maintain good ventilation in the cattery environment. This will help minimize the migration of vapors from one side of the room to the next.

Isolation Room Preparation & Operation



Preparation of the Isolation Room or Area

- Select trained designated staff members for Isolation room implementation.
- Place a hand-sanitizing station near the entrance of the isolation room.
- Ensure adequate room ventilation.
- Post signs on the door indicating that the space is an isolation area.
- Keep a roster of all staff working in the isolation areas, for possible outbreak investigation and contact tracing.
- Stock the PPE supply outside the isolation room or areas. Set up a cabinet outside the entrance to hold PPE. A checklist may be useful to ensure that all equipment is stocked and available.
- Place appropriate waste bags in bin. If possible, use a touch-free bin. Ensure that the used bins remain inside the isolation room.
- Keep the patients' personal belongings, such as collars, leashes, toys, bedding, etc. to a minimum.

Before entering the isolation room or area:

- ✓ Collect all equipment needed
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitizer
- ✓ Put on PPE in the order that ensures adequate placement of PPE items and prevents self-contamination
- ✓ Example of the order in which to don PPE when all PPE items are needed is **hand hygiene, gown, mask, eye protection and gloves**

Leaving the isolation room or area:

- When removing the PPE, make sure that the PPE will not contaminate either the environment outside the isolation room or area, or other animals
- Remove PPE in a manner that prevents self-contamination with contaminated PPE or hands. General principles are:
 - ✓ Remove the most contaminated PPE items first
 - ✓ Perform hand hygiene immediately after removing gloves
 - ✓ Remove the mask last
 - ✓ Discard disposable items in a closed receptacle
 - ✓ Perform hand hygiene with a hand sanitizer whenever ungloved hands touch contaminated PPE items

General Cattery Sanitation Protocol

1. Remove cat(s) from the cage and place in adjacent cage or kennel.
2. Remove dishes, toys, bedding, and litter box.
3. Apply disinfectant solution to all touchpoints by holding the spray bottle 6 to 8 inches above the surface.
4. Starting from the back of the cage and working towards the front, wipe the surface in one motion.
5. Wipe down all touchpoints including cage handles, cage wire, dish holders, etc..
6. For heavily soiled surfaces, hard to reach areas, and wheels agitate with a synthetic brush.
7. It is important to clean and disinfect wheels on cages, carts, and trash receptacles that move from area to area.
8. Discard used litter and clean box with disinfectant and fresh towel.

IMPORTANT: Allow the surfaces to air dry before returning the cat to the cage.