



Animal ID _____

Feline Calicivirus

What is the issue?

This cat has shown signs of an upper respiratory tract infection, or a “cat cold” while under the care of the Ottawa Humane Society. This “cold” is generally caused by viral agent, either feline herpesvirus or feline calicivirus. Some symptoms include; sneezing, running nose, inflamed eyes, and fever. In particular calicivirus infection can be associated with tongue ulcers, lameness, and chronic oral inflammatory disease (oral ulcers). These viral agents are potentially contagious to other cats; however most immunocompetent and fully vaccinated cats will be resistant to infection or will not become as sick. There is a higher risk for these viruses to be transmitted to and cause illness in old or very young cats in your home, or those with other health conditions. Cats that have been infected with these viruses may shed them for a significant length of time, or periodically throughout life, which can act as a source of infection to other cats. These are very common pathogens that many cats have been exposed to as kittens, and cats can shed the virus without clinical signs, or may only become sick when they are stressed (such as a change in the home environment, a new animal, a new food, etc).

What has OHS done so far?

A veterinarian has performed a full examination on this cat and may have prescribed treatment(s). A full medical history of this animal’s veterinary care at the Ottawa Humane Society will be provided to you for your veterinarian to review.

What still needs to be done?

Most cats have difficulty clearing these viral agents while living in a shelter environment. It is very likely that once this cat’s stress level is reduced, his/her immune system will get stronger and the “cold” will go into remission. Other cats will suffer from chronic “cold” symptoms and may require ongoing veterinary care for this condition. Long term medication and diagnostic testing can be required in some chronic, severe cases. Animals on long term prescription medication require periodic blood work to monitor for medication side effects.

What can the adopter expect?

If this cat’s cold was caused by calicivirus, it is possible that flare ups may include a recurrence of oral ulcers and possible lameness. They may or may not need to be seen by a veterinarian for treatment. There may be on ongoing inflammation in the oral cavity which may lead to ulceration, pain, and may possibly require dental surgery. A veterinarian will be able to help with a plan to manage and monitor for signs of future issues.

We generally recommend that cats that have shown signs of infection with calicivirus be the only cat in their new home.

Other Considerations:

For more information the following is a site with excellent information on veterinary topics for pet owners, with a specific link for feline upper respiratory disease.

<https://veterinarypartner.vin.com/default.aspx?pid=19239&id=4951489>

FULL AND FINAL RELEASE

Having disclosed the medical condition(s) referred to above, the Owner hereby releases and forever discharges the Ottawa Humane Society and its officers, directors, employees and contractors from any liability in connection with any costs incurred, directly or indirectly, relating to the conditions which have been disclosed herein.

READ BEFORE SIGNING

Signature of Owner or Authorized Agent of the Owner

Date

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of:

Signature of Witness