

Feline Panleukopenia

Feline Panleukopenia virus (FPV) is a virus transmitted through the fecal-oral route and causes vomiting, diarrhea, and sometimes sudden death in cats.

Virology

Feline Panleukopenia virus (FPV) is made up of a single-stranded genomic DNA. FPV is a non-enveloped virus and persistent in the environment lasting up to 1 year under the right conditions. It is a member of the *Parvoviridae* family and is closely related to Canine Parvovirus.

Clinical Signs

The incubation period can range from two to ten days and cats may shed the virus for two to three days *before* clinical signs are observed. The symptoms that follow occur in stages; the first sign presented is a fever greater than 40°C that lasts for 24 hours or more. This acute stage of the disease is when death is most likely to occur. The cats able to survive this stage are expected to have the fever return in three to four days. Other symptoms that will be present are lethargy, anorexia, vomiting, and a noticeably rough coat. In addition, the cat will experience persistent bloody diarrhea, which will lead to severe dehydration.

Epidemiology of Transmission

All cats are susceptible to FPV, which is found worldwide but affects kittens most severely. The virus is highly contagious and shed from feces or vomitus. Transmission occurs via the fecal-oral route and contaminated fomites.

Treatment and Prevention

Treatment includes supportive care, fluid and antimicrobial therapy. Isolation and proper biosecurity protocol are imperative due to the highly contagious nature of the disease. Vaccines are readily available for the first line of defense against FPV with recommendations for kittens to receive their first vaccination between six to eight weeks of age, and follow up vaccines (boosters) are given until the kitten is around sixteen weeks of age.

To prevent the transmission of the virus, it is important to use an approved EPA and Health Canada registered disinfectant that has proven efficacy against Feline Panleukopenia and by following the label instructions. This will ensure that the product will achieve the full contact time and eliminate remnants of the virus on contaminated surfaces.

References

Koret Shelter Medicine Program

<http://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/feline-panleukopenia>

Merck Veterinary Manual

http://www.merckvetmanual.com/mvm/generalized_conditions/feline_panleukopenia/overview_of_feline_panleukopenia.html

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