



Feline Panleukopenia and Your Cat

What is feline panleukopenia?

- Feline panleukopenia is a relatively common disease of unvaccinated and immune immature cats and kittens. This virus is in the parvovirus family and attacks cells of the stomach, intestines and bone marrow.

What are the symptoms of feline panleukopenia?

- Clinical signs include poor appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy and sometimes death. The average incubation period for panleukopenia is 4-6 days with some reports of longer (up to 10 or 14 days).

How does the virus enter the shelter?

- Panleukopenia is not uncommon this time of years in shelters. As the weather warms and we see an increase of kittens in the community, incidents of the virus rise proportionally. As shelters are a refuge for these cats and kittens, the probability of disease transmission is increased.

I have other cats at home. Could they become exposed to panleukopenia?

- The most at-risk population for acquiring this disease is unvaccinated cats and kittens. It is recommended that all cats be vaccinated against feline panleukopenia. It is recommended that the new cat be kept isolated for 7-10 days for both health and behavior reasons.

Can people or other animals contract panleukopenia?

- No, the virus is specific to cats.

What should I do if I see any of these symptoms?

- It is important that any animal adopted or redeemed from a shelter be taken for an examination by your veterinarian within the first few days of leaving the shelter. If you observe the symptoms listed above within the first fourteen days of adoption, please contact your veterinarian or OC Animal Care at (714) 935-6848 Monday-Sunday 8 am-5 pm. If you have questions after hours, contact your local veterinarian or emergency clinic, however please be advised that financial expenses incurred from outside veterinarians are the responsibility of the pet owner.