

Infectious Disease Protocol: Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)

Protocol

Basic Disease Information:

- Also known as **feline distemper** – caused by **feline parvovirus**
- Panleukopenia virus causes vomiting, diarrhea, and can cause sudden death in cats
- The virus is transmitted primarily by the fecal-oral route (including through exposure to objects/clothing/hands contaminated with virus from feces)
- It is very durable unless inactivated by an effective disinfectant, and can persist in the environment for months or even years
- Kittens are at highest risk for this disease, and adult cats with **current vaccinations** are at very low risk
- **Incubation Period:** Usually 5 – 7 days (Generally less than 14)
- **Shedding Period:** 2 – 3 days post-exposure
- No carrier state
- We vaccinate all cats on intake against Panleukopenia (part of the MLV FVRCP core vaccine)

Adults: Revaccinate once in 2 – 3 weeks (preferably 2 weeks), if still with us in the shelter

Kittens: Begin at 4 - 6 weeks of age and revaccinate every 14 days until 18 weeks old

MLV vaccination may cause a weak false positive parvo test within about 5-12 days after vaccination

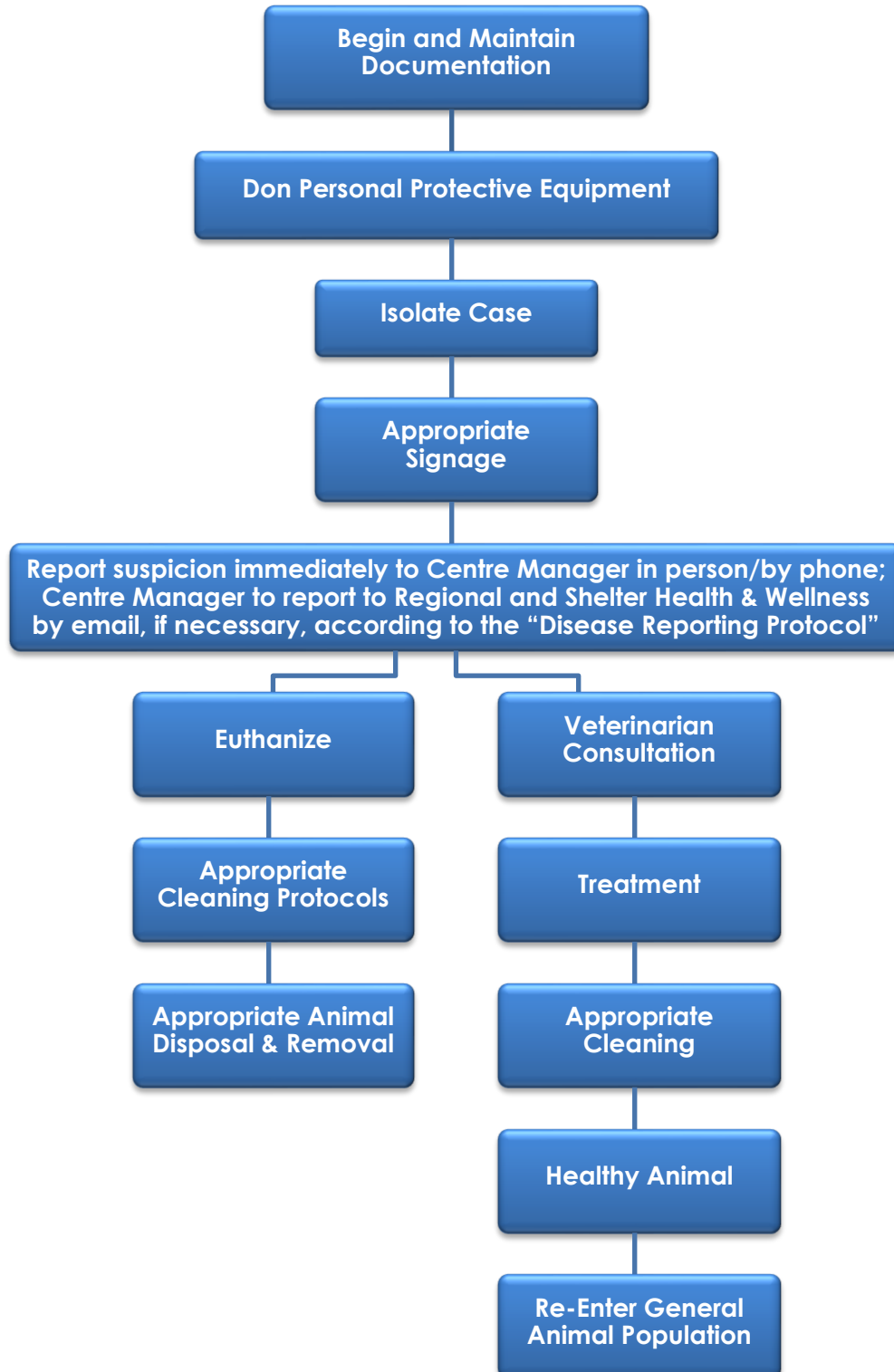
General Policy:

Treatment of FPV infected animals should only be undertaken in an animal centre if sufficient facilities exist to isolate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. These animals must be examined by a Veterinarian and have their treatment plan prescribed by the Veterinarian.

If you see or suspect any of the following signs:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Dehydration
- Sudden death/found dead in cage (especially suspicious in adolescent to adult cats with or without concurrent URI)

Follow these next steps:



Diagnosis:

When to test:

1. Any cat with diarrhea or vomiting that is also exhibiting signs of systemic disease
2. Any cat that has had a known exposure to panleukopenia within the preceding 14 days that then develops diarrhea
3. Except as noted above, do not test cats that have diarrhea but are bright, alert, active, eating or drinking normally

Who performs the test: Veterinary medical staff **or** Animal Centre staff trained in use of the test

How to test: In-House fecal ELISA tests (ie. IDEXX SNAP® test)

Where Housed:

- **Isolate** all positive cases in a separate room used only for this purpose (ie. Not in a bathroom)
 - If no isolation room is available, isolate separately at a Vet Hospital
- **Quarantine** exposed cats for 14 days
- **If neither isolation nor quarantine are an option, the only other humane alternative is euthanasia**
- **Work with a Veterinarian knowledgeable in shelter medicine to develop a plan for other cats in the facility**

How cleaned:

1. **Don proper PPE** for ANYONE coming in contact with a suspected animal or entering isolation – disposable gloves, disposable gown, impermeable shoe covers
2. Continue with your Animal Centre's cleaning protocol as approved by the Department of Shelter Health & Wellness. Spot cleaning is always preferred unless the cage is heavily soiled
3. Staff must wear full PPE (gloves gown, shoe covers) in any room identified as a quarantine room.
4. **Disinfect using** (whichever is your normal disinfecting agent):
Oxidizing Agents: Such as Prevail®, Trifectant®, Virkon®, Peroxigard Plus™ or Butcher's Blend®
5. **TWO CONSECUTIVE CLEANINGS (cleaned, disinfected, dried) within a short period of time (ie. 24hrs) is sufficient, prior to re-use of cage**

** As a reminder where staff is responsible for cleaning multiple housing units, the sequence they should be cleaned is: **From clean to dirty,**

1. Adoptable kittens/puppies
2. Adoptable adult animals

3. Stray/Quarantine kittens/puppies
4. Stray/Quarantine adult animals
5. Isolation areas

Tips:

- FPV is an extremely contagious parvo virus among cats, in which kittens are most severely affected
- It can destroy white blood cells, which makes the cats susceptible to secondary infections
- In-utero infections do occur, potentially leading to the birth of kittens with neurological conditions

Which animals to treat:

- Treatment of FPV infected animals should only be undertaken in an animal centre if sufficient facilities exist to isolate the patient such that the rest of the population is not put at risk, and staffing resources (time, skill level) are adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. These animals must be examined by a Veterinarian and have their treatment plan prescribed by the Veterinarian
- Other options could include off-site veterinary clinic or transfer to another animal centre with sufficient facilities
- All animals should be treated, as long as they are a good adoption candidate, there is appropriate isolation (separate room isolated from different species) and adequate resources to support treatment and housing

Treatment:

- Treatment needs to be done under veterinary supervision
- Re-vaccinate all cats that have not been vaccinated in the last 14 days
- Supportive care (including broad spectrum antibiotics for secondary infections and deworming, fluid therapy if necessary)

Monitoring:

- ACA or RVT is responsible for daily monitoring and proper documentation
- The Animal Centre Manager, RVT or Senior Animal Care member is responsible for scheduling veterinary rechecks

Recovery/Treatment Failure:

- To be determined by the supervising veterinarian

Adoption:

- Recovered cats will be placed back up for adoption after they have SNAP tested negative and successfully quarantined for 2 weeks
- Exposed cats will be up for adoption after being successfully quarantined for 2 weeks
- Continue vaccinating kittens following the normal vaccination schedule

Documentation:

- All animal centres are required to provide pertinent information as per the Ontario SPCA Adoption Sharing and Caring Policy

References: Koret Centre, Shelter Medicine – UC Davis

<https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/guidebooks/?r=feline-panleukopenia>