

## **Infectious Disease Protocol: Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI/URTD)**

### **Basic Disease Information:**

- URI can be caused by several pathogens: Calicivirus, Herpesvirus, Chlamydomphila felis, Mycoplasma or Bordetella
- Calicivirus and Herpesvirus are the two pathogens that account for 80 – 90% of all cases (mostly Herpesvirus)
- Spread mainly by fomites and direct contact
- **Incubation Period:** 2 – 14 days
- **Shedding Period:** Some shed for 2 – 3 weeks post-recovery, and some shed life long
- We vaccinate all cats on intake against Calici and Herpes as part of our MLV core vaccine (FVRCP)

**Adults:** Revaccinate once in 2 – 3 weeks (preferably after 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 can protect within 3 – 5 days (in absence of maternal antibody interference)

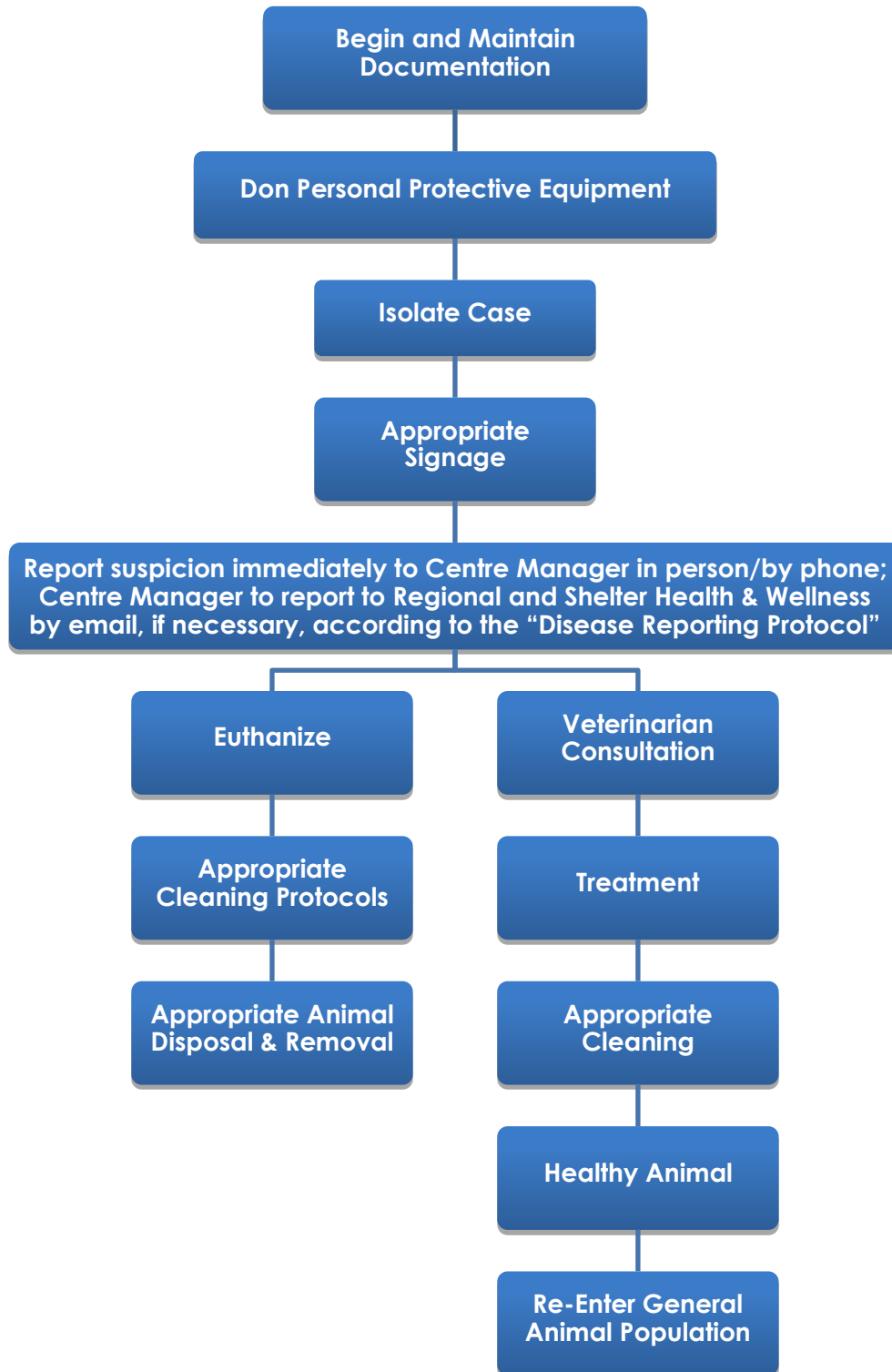
### **General Policy:**

Treatment of URI 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 staff resources (time, skill level) is adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. The treatment plan will be determined by the VCPR (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship) between the facility and their regular veterinarian.

### **If you see or suspect the following signs:**

- Sneezing
- Runny eyes
- Ocular and/or nasal discharge
- Lethargy
- Oral ulcers (Calici)
- Fever, depression, loss of appetite, eyes ulcers (Herpes)

### **Follow these next steps:**



**Diagnosis:**

**How to test:** Generally based on clinical signs

**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. Dishwashers should be used in place of mechanical scrubbing, when at all possible
6. **ONE FULL CLEANING (cleaned, disinfected, dried) is required 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

**Which animals to treat:**

- Treatment of URI 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 staff resources (time, skill level) is adequate to ensure humane and appropriate care. The treatment plan will be determined by the VCPR (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship) between the facility and their regular 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 and as long as there is appropriate isolation (separate room isolated from different species) and adequate resources to support treatment and housing

**Treatment:**

- The treatment plan will be determined by the VCPR (Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship) between the facility and their regular veterinarian
- Re-vaccinate all cats that have not been vaccinated in the last 14 days
- Supportive care (wiping away discharges, syringe feeding, use of vaporizers, keeping warm etc.)

**Monitoring:**

- ACA, RVT or senior animal care member 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 been successfully isolated for 2 weeks
- Exposed cats will be placed 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/resources/?r=feline-upper-respiratory-infection-aka-uri>