

# ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

<b>Disease Name:</b>	<b>Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)</b>		
<b>Agent:</b>	Feline Enteric Corona Virus (FECV). Enveloped RNA virus. Mutates in some cats to cause FIP.		
<b>Clinical Signs:</b>	Cyclic fever, lethargy, failure to grow and abdominal distention		
<b>Susceptible domestic species</b>	Cats		
<b>Zoonotic?</b>	No		
<b>Diagnostic tests:</b>	<b>Biopsy and immunohistochemistry</b>	<b>Serology/PCR</b>	<b>Clinical signs/lab values</b>
<b>Test comments</b>	Sensitivity (frequency of false negatives) is variable depending on form of disease and specimen submitted. False positives are uncommon.	Although serology and PCR can detect a history of exposure to FECV, <b>they do not distinguish between FECV infection/exposure and FIP</b> . The majority of shelter cats will test positive but will not develop FIP. Titers >16,000 are suggestive of FIP but not found in the majority of cats with FIP. Titers negative at 1:25 are a reliable indicator that FIP is not present, but not all labs report titers down to 1:25, and “negative” titers from labs that use a higher cut off can be seen in cats with FIP.	FIP is most commonly diagnosed antemortem based on clinical signs and lab values. The combination of hyperglobulinemia, neutrophilia, lymphopenia in a cat with typical clinical signs is reasonably predictive. Characteristic abdominal effusion is very suggestive.
<b>Vaccine available?</b>	Yes; MLV intranasal. Requires two doses at greater than 16 weeks of age.		
<b>Vaccine efficacy</b>	Not effective, especially in shelter setting where virtually all cats will be exposed prior to vaccination being protective. Questions remain about safety. Not recommended.		
<b>Excreted in :</b>	FECV excreted primarily in feces. FIP rarely shed as such, and even when it is, it is rarely infectious.		
<b>Mode of transmission:</b>	FECV is highly contagious, transmitted by contact with feces, easily transmitted by fomites. FIP is rarely transmitted as such: cats in <i>stable households</i> with FIP positive cat are at little increased risk for contracting disease compared with other cats in multiple cat (> 5 cats) environments. Kittens introduced to FIP endemic shelters/catteries were at greatly increased risk for contracting FIP, even if adult cats were not showing signs of disease. Littermates of FIP positive cat are at increased risk (25-40%) due to shared genetic predisposition as well as common exposure history. Mothers of FIP kittens are not at significantly higher risk for disease but may be at higher risk for transmission of mutable strain of FECV.		



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PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873

## SHELTER HEALTH PRO

<b>Disinfection</b>	Routine disinfection adequate to inactivate virus. Reduction of crowding, good sanitation and frequent cleaning of litter boxes, use of low dust/tracking litter is important to reduce overall load of FECV in environment.
<b>Incubation</b>	Clinical signs due to FECV infection rarely appreciated. FIP most commonly develops within 6-18 months postinfection.
<b>Post-recovery shedding</b>	Cats with FECV may shed for months, although recognizable clinical signs due to infection are rare. Shed usually stops within a year if the cat is removed from a multiple cat environment, thus preventing reinfection.
<b>Carrier state?</b>	40-60% of shelter cats will be shedding FECV at any given time.
<b>PPE required</b>	Gloves, gown, impermeable shoe covers