

ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

Disease Name:	Feline URI: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, aka Herpes - Core Vaccine	
Agent:	Herpesvirus (enveloped DNA virus)	
Susceptible domestic species	Cats	
Zoonotic?	No	
Clinical signs and significance	May be isolated from asymptomatic cats, especially in multiple-cat environments. Causes URI: Sneezing, ocular and nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, keratitis, blepharospasm, fever, anorexia, rarely oral ulceration. Ocular and nasal ulceration is particularly suggestive of herpes. Wide range of ocular signs, including chronic conjunctivitis, anterior uveitis, symblepharon, eosinophilic keratitis, corneal sequestrum. Can cause chronic rhinitis/sinusitis, implicated with calicivirus in chronic lymphoplasmacytic gingivostomatitis.	
Diagnostic tests:	Viral culture on ocular, nasal or oropharyngeal swabs	PCR on ocular, nasal or oropharyngeal swabs
Test sensitivity (false negatives)	Good during acute disease if sample is handled correctly. Sample will be overrun by calici if concurrently infected.	Good during acute disease. Various PCR techniques exist, some more sensitive than others.
Test specificity (false positives)	Good. Intranasal vaccine can cause positive results soon after vaccination.	Good (depending on quality control at lab)
Test comments	Many cats are chronic carriers; positive test only indicates infection, not that infection is causing clinical signs. Positive results may also be caused by vaccine induced acute or chronic infection.	
Vaccine available?	Yes: modified live intranasal, and modified live or killed parenteral.	
Vaccine efficacy	Moderate for protection against severe disease, does not prevent infection, and may cause mild, contagious disease. Additional benefit may be gained by giving both IN and parenteral vaccine in shelter. IN takes 4-6 days for protection, parenteral at least a week.	
Excreted in :	Primarily in nasal, ocular and oral secretions	
Mode of transmission:	Direct contact, **fomite spread over significant time/distance (this means you unless you use your PPE wisely!) , aerosol droplet spread over distances of only up to five feet. (Cats lack the tidal volume to generate an effective aerosol.)	
Disinfection	Routine disinfection adequate. Survives no more than 18 hours in the environment (long enough to be transported on unwashed hands or scrub tops, however!)	
Incubation	Usually 2-6 days; recrudescence usually observed within ~ 7 days after a stressful event.	
Post-recovery shedding	2-3 weeks (see carrier state)	
Carrier state?	Yes indeed, > 80% of infected cats remain chronic carriers and intermittently shed with stress (just like people with cold sores or shingles, also caused by herpes virus [human-specific]).	



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PROTECTING ANIMALS SINCE 1873

SHELTER HEALTH PRO

PPE Required	Gloves, gown, impermeable shoe covers, and <u>hand wash, hand wash, hand wash!!!</u>
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