Cats Protection: Our Mission

Cats Protection’s vision is a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs

1/ Rehoming
2/ Neutering
3/ Education
How We Work

• 31 Adoption Centres
• 250 voluntary ‘branches’
• Over 8000 volunteers
Today's Talk - Overview

Why are infectious diseases a problem?

A few specific cases
- Cat ‘flu
- Feline Parvovirus
- Ringworm
- FeLV
- FIV

How we contain disease
What makes cats different?

- Cats were originally solitary hunters.
- Not evolved to live in close proximity with other cats.
- Cats can be carriers of disease without showing symptoms.
Why do cats in shelters get sick?

- Stress
- Immune System
- Shelter environment factors
- Host susceptibility
- Transient population
- Different bugs from different places
- Population density
It’s All About Stress!
Disease Transmission

Direct (from cat to cat)
- saliva e.g. FeLV
- sneezing e.g. cat ‘flu
- fighting e.g. FIV
- rubbing e.g. Ringworm

Indirect (from people or objects)
- pens e.g. Ringworm
- litter trays e.g. Coronavirus
- food bowls e.g. FeLV
- people’s hands, shoes etc. e.g. Parvovirus
Cat ‘flu

What is it?

- Feline herpesvirus (FHV)
- Feline calicivirus (FCV)
- Chlamydophila felis
- Bordetella bronchiseptica
Cat ‘flu

Clinical Signs

- Sneezing
- Runny nose and eyes
- Conjunctivitis
- High temperature
- Quiet and subdued
- Loss of appetite
- Dribbling
- A cough or loss of voice
- Gingivo-stomatitis
- Lameness
Feline herpesvirus

- Feline rhinotracheitis virus
- Up to 20% of cats entering shelters will already be infected
- Cats will be lifelong ‘carriers’
  - Virus shedding
  - Shedding may last up to 14 days
  - Chronic ‘snufflers’
- Virus survives in environment for only 18hrs
Feline herpesvirus
Feline herpesvirus
Feline calicivirus

- Constantly mutates – clever!
- Virus survives in the environment for up to 10d
- Cats can become ‘carriers’
  - 50% still shedding 75 days after infection
  - Most cats stop shedding 1 year after infection
  - Some will be lifelong carriers - without symptoms!

- 20-30% of cat population estimated to be shedding
Infectious Diseases – Cat ‘flu

Feline calicivirus
Disinfectant Toxicity
Feline calicivirus (VSD)

- New strain known as ‘Virulent Systemic Disease’
  - Swelling of head and paws
  - Flu signs
  - Jaundice
  - Bleeding from nose and bowel
  - Death

- All ages can get it
- Even Vaccinated cats
VSD
Chlamydophila felis

- A bacteria
- Often a secondary invader
- Easy to kill in environment
- Spread by direct contact only
- Got to treat it right or it sticks around
Infectious Diseases

– Cat 'flu

Feline chlamydophilosis
Cat ‘flu

What do you do??

VACCINATE

- Isolate and barrier nurse
- Good nursing care
- Can’t kill the virus
- Antibiotics for secondary infections
- Pain relief
- Decongestants
- Reduce stress
- Specific testing may not be necessary?
Infectious Diarrhoea

Causes

Viral agents
- Parvovirus
- Coronavirus

Bacterial agents
- Campylobacter sp
- Salmonella sp
- E Coli

Worms
- Roundworms
- Tapeworms

Protozoan agents
- Giardia
- Coccidia
- Tritrichomonas foetus
Feline Parvovirus

Also known as:
- Parvo
- Enteritis/feline enteritis
- Panleucopenia

What is it?
- Virus
- BAD NEWS
- Spread between cats by direct or indirect contact with contaminated faeces
- Survives in the environment a long time
Feline Parvovirus

Clinical Signs

- Sudden death with no signs
- Lack of appetite
- High temperature
- Weight loss
- Severe vomiting
- Severe diarrhoea with blood and mucus
- Dehydration
- Cerebellar hypoplasia (wobblers)
Feline Parvovirus

Diagnosis

- Kitten post mortem
- Blood test
- Faecal sample
Feline Parvovirus
What do you do?

VACCINATE

- Isolate and barrier nurse
- Good nursing care
- Can’t kill a virus
- Fluids (oral or I/V)
- Antibiotics for secondary infections
- Vaccinate in face of outbreak
- Use the right disinfectants
Ringworm

What is it?

- A fungus known as a dermatophyte
- It’s not gonna kill anyone, so why is it a big problem?
Infectious Diseases

Ringworm
Ringworm

Clinical Signs

- Hair loss
- Crusting and scaling
- Itching
- Can mimic other skin diseases
- Can look like anything – or nothing
Ringworm

REMEMBER RINGWORM IS A ZOONOTIC DISEASE
Ringworm

Diagnosis

- Woods lamp
- Hair culture
Ringworm

What do you do?

- Isolate and barrier nurse: spores
- Oral medication
  - Itraconazole (Itrafungol; Janssen) for 5 week course
- Topical treatments
  - Miconazole shampoo (Malaseb; VetXX), Enilconazole (Imaverol; Janssen), Lime sulphur
- If long haired may need clipping
- Use the right disinfectants
Ringworm

CP says:

 2 CLEAR CULTURES BEFORE HOMING

Things to Remember:

 Ringworm spores can survive up to 2 years
 Appropriate disinfectants are: Bleach or Virkon (Peroxygen compound)
 Steam cleaning
FeLV & FIV

What are they?
- Feline Leukaemia Virus (FeLV)
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

How are they spread between cats?

How are they diagnosed?

What is the quality of life for infected cats like?

What is the long term outlook for infected cats?
## Transmission of FeLV & FIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FeLV</th>
<th>FIV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mating/Fighting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual grooming</td>
<td>Less easy to transmit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing food/water bowls</td>
<td>Approx. a <strong>third</strong> of kittens of FIV positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong> kittens of FeLV positive queen will be infected</td>
<td>queen will be infected</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Signs of FeLV & FIV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FeLV</th>
<th>FIV</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can’t fight off other diseases</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>High temperature</td>
<td>High temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weight loss</td>
<td>Weight loss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lethargy</td>
<td>Lethargy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancerous tumours</td>
<td>Gingivitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaemia</td>
<td>Anything else you can imagine!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Usually young-middle aged cats</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Diagnosis

• Who to test?
• Do you test any?
• What’s the prevalence in your area?

Some suggested ‘at risk’ categories:
ि Sick cats
ि Intact adults
ि Kittens of FIV positive queens
ि Orphan kittens
ि Feral/Stray cats
ि Cats going communal area
ि Anything vet suspicious of – clinical signs
ि In contact cats
ि Before spending lots of money
Difficult Decisions

What are you going to do with results?
- Euthanaise positives?
- Rehome?
Quality of Life: FeLV & FIV

FeLV

✔️ 85% of infected cats die within 3 years of infection so CP policy is euthanasia
✔️ Very low incidence of this disease in UK
✔️ Vaccination available

FIV

✔️ CP home them: must be healthy and suitable indoor home only
✔️ Can live a long time
✔️ Euthanasia for positive ferals and sick cats, and those that won’t enjoy life indoors
✔️ No vaccine available in UK
CONTAINING DISEASE

• Why know about the bugs??

• What’s a Fomite?

• We are the major source of infection transmission!!
Containing Disease

Personal Protective Equipment

- Apron
- Gloves
- Oversuit
- Sleeves
- Overshoes
- Hat or hood on oversuit
- Mask?
- Goggles?

Idea is all items should be disposable
Containing Disease

The 10 Commandments

1. Understand the disease you’re fighting
2. Use a disinfectant that is effective against the disease.
3. Deal with infectious cats last
4. Wear and use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
5. Use footbaths
6. Have separate cleaning utensils per cat
7. Use disposable litter trays and food bowls or return trays and bowls to same cat
8. Use disposable bedding or soak in disinfectant before washing on hot cycle
9. Wash contaminated bedding last and separate from other bedding
10. Use knowledge of bug to decide what to do with environment
Thank You!

Um, yes... I have a question