



Feline Infectious Peritonitis

Feline Infectious Peritonitis or FIP, is a virus from the coronavirus family. There are many types of corona viruses, but only one is responsible for causing the disease FIP in cats.

FIP is transmitted mostly in the feces, but can also be shed in oral and respiratory secretions. The virus is fragile, so good sanitation should keep it from being in the environment at large. Cleaning litter boxes is essential.

Cats most susceptible to FIP are young cats, cats in multicat households or cats in shelters or other crowded environments.

Just because a cat is exposed to the virus, does not mean they will develop the disease. If cats are exposed to large doses of the virus, if they have an immature or incompetent immune system or if they are under other stress, then their risk of becoming ill is higher.

Things you can do to help prevent your cat from contracting FIP are:

1. Reduce fecal exposure
2. Reduce cat numbers
3. Antibody testing*
4. Isolation of new cats
5. Keep cats indoors

There is no definitive treatment for FIP. Cats that are clinically affected will not survive very long despite supportive care.

*Having antibodies simply means that the cat has been exposed to the family of corona viruses and the immune system has responded. A positive antibody test in an asymptomatic cat does not indicate active disease and certainly does not warrant euthanasia.