

Upper Respiratory Infection

Most common symptoms:

- Sneezing
- Nasal discharge
- Runny eyes
- Cough
- Oral or nasal ulcers
- Sniffles
- Fever

Feline URIs can be very common among younger kittens since their immune systems are not fully developed. Most feline colds are treated over the course of 7 to 10 days. The most common antibiotic used in weaning kittens is Clavamox, while older kittens are treated with Doxycycline. Both of these antibiotics are administered orally. Feline URIs are also usually accompanied with ocular discharge and eye irritation. More often than not, oral antibiotics are coupled with ointments used to treat the eyes.

Helpful Hints:

- Keep the faces clean using a warm washcloth to wipe away nasal discharge.
- Eyes can be wiped clean using a cotton ball soaked in warm water (it is important that any build up in the eyes is cleared so not to cause further infection).
- Wet cat food will be easier for the kitten(s) to smell and consume during treatment.

Coccidia

Most common symptoms:

- Watery diarrhea (sometimes bloody)
- Weight loss
- Dehydration

Coccidia are parasitic organisms that infected the intestines. It is seen in both canines and felines, but it does not cross species nor does it infect humans. The most common oral medication used to treat this infection is Albon, which runs an 8 day course. It is important to notify medical staff immediately of any consistent diarrhea in your foster as Coccidia can be life threatening. It is also very important to keep the foster pet and the environment clean of any fecal matter. Once the treatment course is over, the medical staff will need a new sample to ensure the medication worked.

Helpful Hints:

- Change the litter completely every morning and scoop it clean as frequently as possible.
- Rinse any fecal matter seen on the foster pet.
- Change out any bedding that has become soiled.

Flea Anemia

Most common symptoms:

- **Lowered body temperature**
- **Very pale pink/white gums**
- **Dehydration**
- **Lethargy/lack of activity**
- **Loss of appetite**

Flea anemia is a life-threatening condition, especially for weaning kittens. It is the result of a flea infestation that has affected the level of red blood cells in the pet. Only pets who are allergic to fleas will itch themselves, so it is critical to frequently check for any live fleas. One of the first signs of fleas is **flea dirt**. It will look as though pepper was shaken out onto the coat/fur of the pet. If you see flea dirt, fleas are there. If any of these symptoms are still present after treatment, contact the medical department immediately.

Helpful Hints:

- If signs of fleas are present, frequently change the bedding used for the foster pet(s).
- Consistently and thoroughly comb the pet to remove potential fleas and flea dirt.