



Feline Calicivirus

- Feline calicivirus (FCV) leads to feline respiratory disease complex (FRDC) in combination with other viruses (especially feline herpesvirus-1), bacteria, stress and a variety of environmental factors (poor ventilation, dust and aerosols).
- FRDC is generally a mild, self-limiting disease in many single pet household cats. However, FRDC can be very severe in multi-cat households, catteries and shelters, with mortality as high as 20 – 30%.
- Infections with FCV can lead to severe disease or no disease at all, depending on the FCV variant and the age of the cat. Clinical signs may include upper respiratory disease, fever, oral ulcers and limping due to transient arthritis in a small percentage of cats. Pneumonia, when it develops, is most common in kittens.
- A rare form of virulent systemic FCV infection can occur in adult cats and is characterized by high fever, cutaneous oedema, ulcerative lesions on head and limbs, jaundice and death in 75% of affected animals. This form of disease is rare in kittens. The clinical signs suggest it may be an immune-mediated disease similar to calicivirus disease in other species.
- Kittens should be vaccinated with MLV parenteral or intranasal vaccine, with the last dose between 12 – 16 weeks of age. A killed parenteral vaccine is also available. All cats must receive two doses, 2 – 4 weeks apart, making sure that doses are given at 12 weeks and again at 14 – 16 weeks regardless of the number of doses given earlier. FCV vaccines do not prevent FRDC, but they should reduce its severity.
- Whenever possible, a non-adjuvanted vaccine should be used in cats to reduce the risk of development of injection site sarcoma.

Nasal lesions



Photo: FW Scott

Oral ulcers



Photo: FW Scott

Severe pneumonia

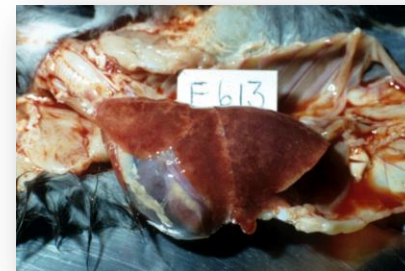


Photo: FW Scott