



Feline Parvovirus

- Feline Panleukopenia is a highly contagious infectious disease of cats worldwide caused by feline parvovirus (FPV).
- Cats with FPV infection develop severe enteritis leading to vomiting and diarrhoea (sometimes with blood). Virus is shed at high levels in faeces and it remains infectious in the environment for at least a year.
- Unvaccinated cats of all ages can become infected. FPV infection of kittens often leads to high mortality of $\geq 50\%$. Cats older than 1 year of age develop less severe disease, with mortality $\sim 10\%$ in susceptible cats.
- Infection *in utero* often leads to abortion. Infected late term fetuses can develop cerebellar degeneration leading to ataxia and death.
- Both non-infectious (killed) and modified live viral (MLV) vaccines are available for parenteral administration. MLV vaccines are recommended for all except pregnant cats. When vaccination is necessary, the pregnant cat should receive killed FPV. MLV vaccine virus is capable of infecting the fetus if the queen has not been previously vaccinated.
- An intranasal MLV FPV vaccine is available, however, parenteral administration is preferred.
- When vaccine is not blocked by maternally derived antibody (MDA), FPV immunity may develop as early as 3 days post-vaccination. By the time kittens are 12 – 16 weeks of age, most kittens have lost MDA and respond well to the vaccine.
- Feline Panleukopenia is a vaccine preventable disease!

Typical depressed kitten



Photo: FW Scott

Inflamed gut loops

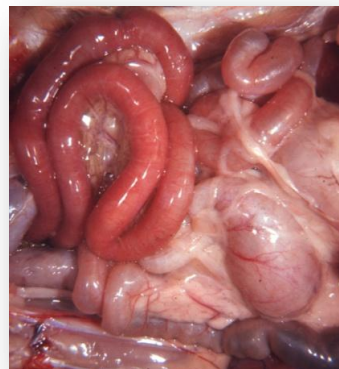


Photo: FW Scott

Profuse vomiting and diarrhoea



Photo: RD Schultz, LJ Larson