

Standard Operating Procedures for Texas Litter Control Program Animals

Intake of All New Patients

- All cats are to be weighed on intake and vaccinated as appropriate within an hour of being in the building.
- All cats need to be examined by the DVM, a nail trim, ear cleaning and mite treatment, combo test and Revolution.
- If the cat is not already spayed/neutered, the nail trim, combo test, Revolution and ear cleaning will be done at the time of surgery.
- All cats are to be started on Fortiflora, L-lysine, secnidazole, ponazuril and strongid. You will need to give a second dose of strongid 14 days later.

Vaccinations

- All cats need to be vaccinated immediately (within the hour) when they enter the program unless they have proof of recently given vaccines.
- Abandoned or orphaned kittens over 4 weeks of age need to be given the FVRCP vaccine with two boosters every 14 days. With additional boosters at 12, 16 and 20 weeks.
- All other kittens will be vaccinated beginning at 6 weeks with two boosters every 14 days. Additional boosters at 16 and 20 weeks.
- Cats with upper respiratory signs will still need vaccines to protect against other diseases unless a DVM says otherwise.
- Any cats or kittens over 12 weeks of age need the rabies vaccine.
- An apparently normal cat can shed virus particles, exposing other cats and contaminating the clinic, for up to 3 weeks following resolution of signs.

FVRCP Vaccine

- Feline herpes virus – causes a life-long infection that can be reactivated under stress, sneezing and ocular discharge
- Calicivirus – causes a life-long infection that can lead to stomatitis, along with sneezing and ocular discharge, it can cause serious oral ulcers and result in a cat that won't eat
- Chlamydia – a cause of pink eye
- Feline Panleukopenia – highly virulent, frequently resulting in sudden death, vomiting and bloody diarrhea
- Kittens will require 10-14 days from vaccination to produce antibodies. Incubation periods for most diseases are 3-7 days.

Upper Respiratory Infection

- Sneezing and runny eyes – If the discharge is clear quarantine cat away from other cats and give 5-7 days for virus to clear on its own. If cat has weepy eyes, treat with terramycin.
- Sneezing and runny eyes – if discharge is not clear, cat needs to be moved to URI room and put on doxycycline for 10 days. Please see chart for dosages. Continue terramycin if eyes affected.
- If cat seems lethargic or stops eating, print medical form and place in bin for DVM to review if additional treatment is needed.

Ringworm

- Print medical form and confirm ringworm with DVM
- Cats are to be placed on oral terbinafine for 14 days. See chart for dosage
- Cats are to receive lyme sulfur dips every five days for a total of three treatments
- Ringworm will be rechecked on day 15 after first course of terbinafine and three dips have been completed
- If no ringworm is detected, print medical record and place in bin for DVM to clear
- If ringworm is still active, terbinafine will be continued at a schedule of one week on, one week off and lyme sulfur dips will be continued at a schedule of once every five days for three more treatments.
- Cats will be rechecked at the 15 day mark as stated above

Calicivirus

- Calicivirus causes upper respiratory infections, but some strains of the disease are more deadly than others with extreme oral ulcers, resulting in cats that will not eat.
- Treatment consists of injectable pain medications and antibiotics, and canned food or possible force feeding.
- Calici cases are the last to be treated every day unless we also have a Panleukopenia case.
- Extreme care must be taken to prevent spread. Wear gloves, shoe covers, and gowns when handling the cats. Discard the gloves and shoe covers in the isolation room trash. Gowns will be discarded at the end of the treatment protocol. Wash hands thoroughly.

Panleukopenia

- This condition is the most rapidly fatal of the conditions. Any sudden death should be considered Panleukopenia until proven otherwise.
- As soon as you suspect this disease (vomiting, bloody diarrhea, depressed cat) bring it to the DVM's attention and quarantine the cat(s).
- It is imperative to limit the spread if we are to save any patients. Failure to quarantine can result in multiple deaths.
- Extreme care must be taken to prevent spread. Wear gloves, shoe covers, and gowns when handling the cats. Discard the gloves and shoe covers in the isolation room trash. Gowns will be discarded at the end of the treatment protocol. Wash hands thoroughly.

Vomiting and/or Diarrhea

- Get a fecal sample. If you are not trained to read a fecal, find someone who is or ask the DVM to read the fecal.
- Give cat secnidazole, ponazuril, and two doses of strongid 14 days apart.
- If the fecal sample is positive for a condition other than giardia, coccidia, hookworms, or roundworms, ask the DVM for treatment options.
- If the cat is not eating well, weigh and log the weight every Tuesday and Friday and bring the case to the DVM's attention.

Stress Reduction

- Stress suppresses the immune system and makes patients more likely to contract diseases
- The following steps help reduce stress to keep cats healthier
- Toys, places to hide, catnip, Feliway and friendly interaction can reduce stress
- Scent marking behaviors also sooth cats – allow them to use the same litter box and bedding, as long as they are clean, or rub any bedding along the underside of the cat's jaw to scent mark items in the cage with the cat

Appetite and Eating Habits

- Fill each bowl to the brim with dry food to track food consumption
- Offer picky eaters a range of flavors and textures to stimulate the appetite. Canned food is often best.
- If this is ineffective, inform the DVM, especially if there is weight loss, as this can lead to serious complications such as hepatic lipidosis.
- All cats are to be weighed on admission to the program and weekly thereafter, on Fridays so we can watch for trends in weight gain or loss.
- Cats that aren't eating well need to be weighed on Tuesday as well.
- Log all weights in Animal Shelter Manager

Preventing the Spread of Disease

- Cleaning – remove litter, food, feces, etc
- Sanitizing – reducing disease causing organisms from all surfaces
- Aseptic technique – procedures to prevent the spread of disease
- Hand washing after handling each cat is the most important step to prevent the spread of disease. You need to wash your hands for 2 minutes. Singing the happy birthday song is a good way to time this. Dry your hands and turn the faucets off with the paper towel.
- You must wash your hands even if you were wearing gloves.

Daily Cleaning of Rooms

- For healthy cats, you can clean the cage either by the carrier method or the holding cage method.
- For feral or antisocial cats, clean around them while still in the cage to prevent injury or undue stress.
- Remove everything from the cage and clean with Clorox wipes or Rescue. Allow to dry.
- Replace any clean towels and litter pans. Use fresh items if the old items are soiled.
- Return cat to cage.
- Wash hands thoroughly between cages.

Daily Cleaning/Sanitizing of Isolation

- Carrier Method – place cat in a dedicated carrier marked with their name. No other cats are to be placed in this carrier.
- Remove all bedding, food, litter, blood, feces, etc from cage.
- Spray all walls, cages, litter boxes, nebulizers, etc with Rescue and allow to sit for 10 minutes.
- Either allow to dry or wipe dry to prevent irritation of the mouth, eyes, nasal passages or feet.
- Replace all cleaned items once the cage is clean.
- Wash hands thoroughly between cages.
- Sweep and mop floors with Rescue. Broom, mop, and mop bucket are not to leave this room.

Medical Records

- Any time a cat enters the program or returns to the clinic, log the reason and a current weight. Indicate upper respiratory, diarrhea, ringworm, apparently healthy as appropriate.
- Medical records will be logged on ASM under the patient's chart. Log>New Log and chose the correct heading.
- Adoption councilors will log the reason for return and speak to a tech about the case.
- Technicians will gather all information about the cat and inform the DVM.
- DVM will evaluate the case and determine appropriate treatment protocols.

Medical Record

- Weight
- Chief complaint – why the cat is here
- Physical exam findings – what the DVM noted (heart, lungs, abdomen, eyes, ears, BCS, overall attitude)
- Diagnoses – apparently healthy if no abnormalities found
- Treatment – treatments done at the time of the exam such as vaccines
- Plan – future treatments such as spay/neuter

Abbreviations

- **History**
- V/D/S/C – vomiting, diarrhea, sneezing, coughing
- E/D/U/D – eating, drinking, urinating, defecating
- **Physical Exam Findings**
- WNL – within normal limits
- NSF – no significant findings
- P/M – pink/moist
- CRT – capillary refill time
- EENT – ears, eyes, nose, throat

Prescribing Abbreviations

- PRN – as needed
- SID, q24h – once daily, every 24 hours
- BID, q 12h – twice daily, every 12 hours
- TID, q 8h – three times daily, every 8 hours
- PO – by mouth
- OU – both eyes
- AU – both ears
- SQ – under the skin
- IM – in the muscle
- IV – in a vein
- IC – in the heart
- IP – in the abdomen

Abbreviations

- Dx – diagnosis
- Ddx - differential diagnosis
- Pt – patient
- Tx – treatment
- Rx – prescription
- Ax – anesthesia
- Sx – surgery