



Feline Herpesvirus

- Feline herpesvirus type 1 (FHV-1) causes feline respiratory disease complex (FRDC) in combination with other viruses (especially feline calicivirus), 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%.
- Disease often presents as acute rhinitis, conjunctivitis, fever, depression and/or anorexia. Disease is often more severe in kittens < 6 months of age than in adult cats.
- Infection of pregnant unvaccinated cats can lead to abortion.
- Vaccines include non-infectious (killed) and modified live virus (MLV) products for parenteral administration. An intranasal (IN) MLV vaccine is also available.
- Kittens can be vaccinated at an earlier age with the IN vaccines or the parenteral vaccines. Longer periods of time are required for killed vaccines to immunize and 2 doses are required, 2 – 4 weeks apart. The last dose of kitten vaccines should be given at 12 – 16 weeks of age.
- Vaccines reduce the severity of FHV-1 disease, but do not prevent infection of the cat. Latent virus can be reactivated during periods of natural stress or pregnancy, or by treatment with glucocorticoids. Immunosuppression associated with FeLV or FIV infection can also lead to FHV-1 reactivation.
- Whenever possible, non-adjuvanted vaccines should be used in cats to reduce the risk of injection site sarcoma.

Nasal discharge



Photo: FW Scott

Ocular discharge

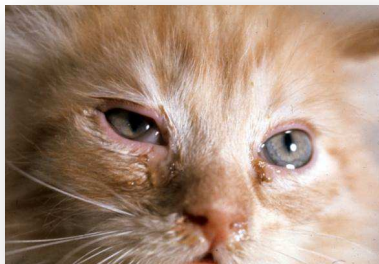


Photo: FW Scott

Severe conjunctivitis



Photo: FW Scott