



CAT CHAT

Spring 2005

WESTSIDE HOSPITAL FOR CATS

www.westsidehospitalforcats.com

Feline Herpes Virus – Know the Signs

Does your cat have runny or watery eyes? Swollen or red eyelids? Blink frequently or hold one eye shut? Does this occur off and on, weekly, several days out of the month, or a few times a year?

These may be signs of a virus called “Feline Herpes Virus”. Your cat likely contracted this airborne virus as a young kitten. And, it affects up to 1/3 of adult cats.

Feline Herpes Virus is a common cause of “colds” or respiratory infections. The respiratory infection can include eye redness and discharge, sneezing and nasal discharge, and fever.

About 80% of cats do not clear the virus completely from their body. When there is a stressful time or illness, these cats shed the virus causing a recurrence of symptoms. Many adult cats will have inflamed eyelids, mild squinting, or watery eye discharge - even if their original symptoms as a kitten were more like a “cold” with sneezing and nasal discharge.

In more serious cases, the eyeball surface [the cornea] will develop an ulcerative abrasion, which owners often mistake as being caused from another cat or object in the house. These cats are squinting with a painful eye. This can happen to any breed of cat but is seen most commonly in Persians.

Westside Hospital for Cats recommends vaccinating against this virus as a kitten, at one year, and then every three years. Intranasal vaccines may lessen clinical signs of chronic Feline Herpes Virus infection. Westside Hospital for Cats requires intranasal vaccine boosters within 3 months of being boarded.

Feline Herpes Virus often leads to secondary bacterial infections and your pet may need to be treated with antibiotics. There are oral anti-viral medications, which are used in severe cases.

Enisyl-F is a lysine nutritional supplement that can improve your cat’s quality of life by decreasing the severity and frequency of outbreaks of Feline Herpes Virus. Lysine competes with the amino acid arginine, inhibiting viral cell replication. Enisyl-F is a highly palatable gel and easy to administer. Improvement in ocular signs may be noted as early as 7 days. Supplementation may be given lifelong or during periods of stress or current infections.

Schedule an appointment if you are concerned that your



cat is having episodes of eyelid redness, frequent blinking or squinting, or watery discharge. Enisyl-F may be a good choice in helping to control Feline Herpes Virus outbreaks. To schedule an appointment, call Westside Hospital for Cats at 310-479-2428. 📞

—Rachel Addleman, DVM

FREE ENISYL-F

Receive a one week supply of Enisyl-F with the purchase of a one-month supply.*

Call Westside Hospital for Cats at 310-479-2428.

*Offer expires 6-30-05

Getting Off to the Right Start

Adopting a kitten is a wonderful experience. Kittens are energetic, full of fun, and oh-so-cute! But remember, kitty's healthcare is extremely important. A visit to the veterinarian is the first step you need to take to ensure the health and well-being of your new kitten.

REGULAR PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Even though your cat may seem healthy to you, an annual physical examination allows your veterinarian to detect many diseases before they become significant problems. During a physical examination, your cat's eyes, ears, nose and throat will be examined. Careful evaluation of the teeth and gums helps to diagnose one of the most common disorders – dental and periodontal disease – early. Auscultation of the chest (listening with a stethoscope) allows the veterinarian to detect heart and lung problems before they become severe. Palpation of the abdomen (belly) provides information about the internal organs (intestines, liver, kidneys, bladder) and can allow early detection of tumors.

The coat and skin are examined for fleas and other external parasites, for cysts and tumors, and as an indication of overall health. Finally, accurate measurement of body weight helps us evaluate your cat's general condition and manage the most common nutritional problem in cats: obesity.

The examination also gives you the opportunity to speak with your veterinarian about any concerns you may have. A convenient time for regular physical examinations of a healthy cat is during the administration of yearly vaccinations. An ill cat should, of course, be evaluated as soon as any problem is noted.

Cats should also be given a fecal check, wherein a sample of the cat's feces is checked for parasites. This should be done with the first kitten exam, and annually, thereafter.

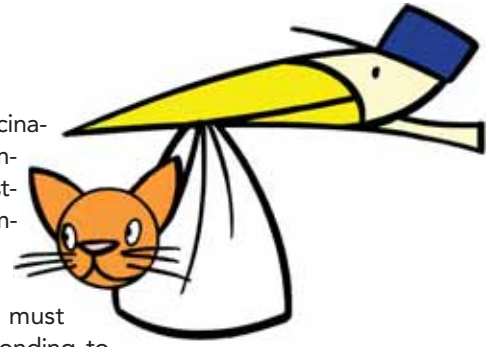
NEUTERING YOUR CAT

Birth control is the only solution to the overwhelming problem of homeless pets who are euthanized. In addition, neutering helps prevent breast cancer, uterine diseases, and the development of undesirable behaviors, such as spraying, roaming and fighting. Neutering is a surgical procedure, which is performed under anesthesia. Your female cat should be spayed (have the ovaries and uterus removed) between 12 and 16 weeks. Your male cat should be neutered (have the testes removed) between 12 and 16 weeks, also.

VACCINATIONS*

Vaccinations stimulate your cat's immune system for protection against several potentially lethal infectious diseases. The number of vaccines your kitten receives depends on the vaccination status of its mother (usually unknown), the kitten's age at the first visit, and any history of potential exposure to sick cats. A minimum series of two vaccinations is required to stimulate long-lasting immunity. Maternal antibodies (cells that are programmed to fight various diseases) can block the young kitten's immune system from producing its own antibodies, so that several vaccinations may be required, with the last vaccine given at 16 weeks of age. Young kittens should not be exposed to other

cats until the vaccination series is complete. Yearly boosters are then recommended. Because the individual cat's immune system must play a role in responding to the vaccination, sick cats will not be vaccinated. Also, please remember that no vaccination is 100% effective. Therefore, even if your cat is vaccinated, it is best to keep him or her away from ill cats.



FVRCP: Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calici Virus and Panleukopenia (respiratory viruses and feline distemper). This vaccine should be given at 8, 12 and 16 weeks of age, then one more time in a year, then once every 3 years. Adult cats with unknown vaccination history should receive 2 vaccines 3 to 4 weeks apart – one annual booster, then a booster every 3 years.

FELV / FIV: Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. This vaccination should be given twice, 2 – 3 weeks apart, the first time after 10 weeks of age, and then annually.

RABIES: The first vaccine is given after 16 weeks of age. The second vaccine is given one year later, and after that every 3 years.

FIP: Feline Infectious Peritonitis. This vaccine is administered into the nasal passages beginning after 10 weeks of age. Two vaccines are given 3 – 4 weeks apart and then an annual booster for cats at risk.

** We follow the American Association of Feline Practitioners for frequency of vaccines.*

EXCITING NEWS!

Westside Hospital for Cats offers the latest technology for Feline Leukemia vaccines, the brand new Vet Jet Transdermal Vaccine, which does not use needles. It requires only half the volume of the previous vaccine. Contact us for more information regarding this cutting edge approach to this vaccination.

IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH

While we emphasize strong preventive care, we are also here to provide advice and treatment for your cat if he or she ever becomes ill or injured. Certain signs of illness, such as poor appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, persistent sneezing, or lameness, may be obvious. But in cats, subtle behavioral changes, such as lethargy or hiding, may indicate illness. If you are unsure if your cat needs veterinary attention, please call us for advice at 310-479-2428. We are happy to answer any questions you may have. 🐾

—Elyse Kent, DVM, DABVP

DO YOU KNOW...

- there's a new transdermal method of giving your cat Leukemia vaccinations?
- about Soft Paws? They're a wonderful alternative to declawing a cat.
- how to trim your cat's nails and what to do if nails bleed?



Call Westside Hospital for Cats to learn about all of these, and to answer any other cat care questions you may have. 310-479-2428.

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ADVERTISE WITH US!

Advertise in Cat Chat and reach thousands of pet owners in the L.A. area.

Contact Anne Marie Clarke, Marketing & Public Relations Manager for Westside Hospital for Cats at 310-479-2428, or e-mail WHCMarketing@aol.com

FIND AND CIRCLE THE FOLLOWING WORDS:

BOARDING, CALICO, DENTAL, FELINE, NEUTER, PAWS, PURRING, RESCUE, VETERINARIAN, WHISKERS.

Words will be in the following directions: Horizontal, forward; Vertical, down; Diagonal, up and Diagonal down.

GOOD LUCK!

Welcome to Westside Hospital for Cats' "CAMP KITTEN" ADOPTION

Join us for "Summer Camp" at Camp Kitten Cat & Kitten Adoption on **Saturday, July 9th from 10am - 1pm** at **Westside Hospital for Cats**

Join us for the fun, games, prizes and tasty treats!

PLUS! Adopt a kitten at "Camp Kitten" and **RECEIVE A FREE EXAM*** compliments of **Westside Hospital for Cats**

* Limit one free exam per kitten/eat per household. Exam to be given at scheduled time, after event date.



COME AND SEE US!
2317 COTNER AVENUE,
W. LOS ANGELES, CA 90064
310-479-2428
WWW.WESTSIDEHOSPITALFORCATS.COM



This Season's Cat

We proudly announce the Spring 2005 winner of "This Season's Cat"... Lillie Cohen. Soft and silky, she possesses the unique characteristic of having two different colored eyes – one blue and one gold.

This beautiful, alabaster 11 year old is still quite a kitten in her own mind. Intelligent and high-strung, Lillie can be quite demanding when she craves the attention that any beautiful, mature female deserves. But, she does reward those who play to her liking by giving licks on the human's hands and face to show her gratitude.

As an (ahem!) older gal, Lillie's humans have wisely provided her two sets of carpeted steps – one to her favorite spot on the couch, and one to her owner's bed.

Despite some health problems – severe arthritis, allergies, and dental issues – Lillie's life is great thanks to the compassionate and attentive care she receives from Westside Hospital for Cats.

Congratulations, Ilene Cohen of Los Angeles (Lillie's human) and congratulations Lillie! You've won a Geriatric Wellness Program.

If you would like to enter your cat for "This Season's Cat", please send a photo and some fun information about your cat to: Westside Hospital for Cats, 2317 Cotner Avenue, West Los Angeles, CA 90064, Attention: Anne Marie Clarke, Marketing & Public Relations Manager. If your cat is selected, you (and your cat) will win a gift specially tailored to your cat's age and lifestyle.

Flea Control

It's spring! And the fleas are here! Fleas, the most common external parasite of cats, are wingless, brownish insects that are powerful jumpers. Although fleas are small, they are visible to the naked eye. Adult fleas suck blood from the cat, so a



heavy infestation can cause anemia, especially in young kittens. A condition called flea-bite hypersensitivity, the most common allergic skin disease of cats, affects individuals that are allergic to the flea's saliva. Fleas can also transmit diseases to cats and people.

There are many safe and effective flea-control products currently available on the market, but the most effective flea control products are the monthly vials that are applied to the head/neck of the cat. The product moves all over the surface of the cat's skin within a day and the fleas die on contact with the skin – no need for the fleas to bite the cat. Any fleas in the environment make their way to the cat to feed and die when they contact the cat. These products eliminate the need for the use of insecticides in the environment (house and yard).

Bring in this coupon and receive a one-month supply of flea control for your cat(s) with the purchase of a six-month supply. For any questions, call us at 310-479-2428.

FLEA CONTROL

One complimentary tube (1-month supply) of topical flea control (Revolution™ or Frontline™) with the purchase of a 6-month supply of topical flea control (6 tubes)

For any questions, call Westside Hospital for Cats at 310-479-2428.

*Offer expires 6-30-05



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A Full-Service Facility Exclusively for Cats