

Information for Adopters: Feline Upper Respiratory Infection

Facts About Feline URI

Feline URI is similar to the common cold in humans. It's caused by a virus, and stressful environments and situations factor in as well. With supportive care and rest in a quiet, calm place like a loving home, most cases resolve in 7-14 days.



Signs of URI

- ♥ Sneezing
- ♥ Runny nose or nasal congestion
- ♥ Red, swollen or runny eyes or squinting
- ♥ Coughing or hard swallowing
- ♥ Sores (ulcers) on the tongue, lips, nose or roof of mouth
- ♥ Fever, lack of appetite, hiding and/or decreased energy

URI Treatment Plan

Just like with humans, viral infections aren't cured by antibiotics, even though they might be used for bacterial infections. A cat with URI should be separated from other cats in the household and put in a quiet space where he can recover in a low-stress setting. The cat can gradually be introduced to people and other animals in the household once he's recovered.

In-Home Care

- ♥ A low-stress room is necessary for the cat to rest, acclimate and recover
- ♥ Make sure the cat is eating (when cats get stuffy noses, they can't smell their food well) so offer canned food, warmed gently in the microwave to stimulate appetite
- ♥ Gently clean discharge from nose and eyes with a warm moist cloth at least once daily
- ♥ Administer any prescribed medications as directed by your veterinarian
- ♥ NOTE: ALWAYS wash hands after handling sick cats.

When to Call a Veterinarian

We recommend every animal adopted be taken for an examination post adoption. In addition, contact your veterinarian if your newly adopted cat has any of the following signs:

- ♥ Not eating for more than 24 hours
- ♥ Green or yellow discharge from the nose
- ♥ Difficulty breathing, especially panting or breathing through an open mouth
- ♥ Depressed or unresponsive
- ♥ Vomiting or diarrhea that lasts more than 24 hours
- ♥ Little or no improvement after a week of home care