



CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW CAT!

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Congratulations on finding a new furry family member! We at El Paso Animal Services have worked very hard to ensure the health of your cat. During your cat's intake exam, we vaccinated for Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calcivirus, Panleukopenia, and Rabies, if old enough. However, illness is still commonly found in the shelter environment. Here is some information about the four most common illnesses and how you can help your newly adopted cat recover to lead a normal, healthy, happy life.

1. We recommend that all newly adopted cats receive a routine health check by your personal veterinarian within the first few days of adoption.
2. If your cat develops discharge from the eyes or nose, lethargy or loss of appetite, you should make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible.
3. At the time of your adoption, Adoption Staff provided information regarding the 24PetWatch Pet Insurance Program. El Paso Animal Services provides the first 30 days of 24PetWatch Pet Insurance coverage, but you **must enroll within seven days of the adoption**. You should receive an email within 24 hours with enrollment instructions.

El Paso Animal Services offers **limited** medical treatment within the first seven days of adoption. If your new cat exhibits any of the below described illnesses within the first week of adoption, please notify Adoption Staff immediately so that we can have your cat seen by our Shelter Veterinarian between the hours of 1 pm and 5 pm. To schedule an appointment with our Shelter Veterinarian during this time, please call:

(915) 212-8705

Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis

1. Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis is a severe upper respiratory infection that is most dangerous to young kittens and older cats. The virus is extremely contagious to cats, and is caused by a feline herpes virus. FVR can leave some cats with permanent respiratory system and optical damage.
2. Symptoms of FVR include but are not limited to eye and nasal discharge, sneezing, loss of appetite, fever, and lethargy.
3. If you suspect your cat has FVR, make an appointment with your veterinarian as soon as possible. The earlier the infection is diagnosed and treated, the more likely it will recover.

Calicivirus

1. There are several different strains of calicivirus, causing a range of illness from mild infection to life-threatening pneumonia. The more dangerous strains can be deadly to young kittens and older cats. Calicivirus is transmitted through direct contact with an infected cat or an infected item.
2. Cats infected with FCV will show a great variability in symptoms, depending on the strain of calicivirus involved in the infection. In some cases, the only symptom of FCV may be oral or nasal ulcers, but usually there are other typical symptoms of an upper respiratory infection.

Panleukopenia

1. Panleukopenia, also known as feline distemper, is a highly contagious disease that moves very quickly through the system. It is caused by a parvovirus similar to the parvovirus seen in dogs. As many as ninety percent of young kittens (under six months old) with panleukopenia do not survive the virus. The disease is most severe in young kittens but can affect cats of all ages.
2. A cat that has contracted feline panleukopenia will have gastrointestinal symptoms like blood in his stool, diarrhea, vomiting, and loss of appetite, which can lead to dehydration. Other signs of illness include anemia, fever, weakness, and nasal discharge.
3. If you suspect your cat has panleukopenia, make an appointment with your veterinarian immediately. There is no specific treatment for the virus, so treatment is aimed at managing the symptoms while the cat's immune system fights the virus. Hospitalization is usually required, and fluids (e.g. by intravenous drip) are generally necessary to combat dehydration.

Ringworm

1. Although the name suggests otherwise, ringworm isn't caused by a worm at all, but a fungus that can infect the skin, hair and nails.
2. Classic symptoms of ringworm in cats include skin lesions that typically appear on the head, ears and forelimbs. Ringworm can cause flaky bald patches that sometimes look red in the center.
3. Ringworm can spread to other pets and humans in the household.
4. Treatment of ringworm depends on the severity of the infection. A veterinarian may prescribe a shampoo or ointment that contains a special medication to kill the fungus. In some cases, oral medications are necessary.