<http://aspcapro.org/webinar/2014-03-18/panleuk-101>

# **General Information**

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## What is FPV?

Panleukopenia (aka Feline distemper, panleukopenia, feline parvovirus) is a highly contagious viral disease that is often fatal to infected cats.  Although FPV can be a problem year-round, the warmer months bring more kittens and a greater risk of the disease.  FPV severity, the ease with which it is spread and its persistence in the environment, make it a significant infectious concern for all cats in animal shelters.

## How to protect cats against FPV

FPV is part of the core vaccine series recommended for all cats which provides excellent protection. Adult cats that are current on their vaccinations are at minimal risk for this disease.

## Risk status

* kittens are the highest risk group as maternal antibodies can interfere with vaccination response .To achieve the best possible protection repeat vaccination (with MLV modified live vaccine) is recommended for all kittens at not less than monthly intervals until they are 20 weeks of age.
* unvaccinated adult cats are also at high risk and are vaccinated immediately on entry to our shelter with modified live vaccine.
* immunocompromised cats (for example due to chemotherapy , cortisone therapy, feline immunodeficiency virus(FIV/aids) are potentially vulnerable .
* adult vaccinated cats are considered very low risk-our cattery cats fall into this category

## How is FPV spread?

* The virus (like the canine parvo virus) is highly resistant in the environment and can persists for up to a year –this is why cleaning and disinfection (using the right products) is critical
* virus is spread from infected cats (which may or may not show signs of illness) via direct (cat-cat) and indirect contact. It is readily spread by hands, clothes and objects such as utensils, toys and furniture.

## What are the signs of FPV?

Signs include:

* diarrhoea (mild to sometimes bloody)
* vomiting
* Inappetance (loss of appetite / not eating)
* lethargy/depression
* fever
* weakness
* dehydration
* death (sometimes sudden)

*Note: Diarrhoea in an otherwise bright, alert, eating, drinking kitten is more likely due to diet change, stress, parasites, or dietary indiscretion.*

## Incubation & Contagious period

* Symptoms usually develop 5-7 days after exposure, but the range is 2-14 days
* Infectious period can be 2-3 days before signs appear and up to six weeks following recovery (so they may be contagious before symptoms start and for a period of time after they resolve)