
Panleukopenia FAQ for Fosters

What is Panleukopenia?

Panleuk is most often referred to as “feline parvo”. It is a virus that is transmittable through fluids and feces. Feces being the most significant. Panleuk can live and be transmitted on most all surfaces. The incubation period is 3-5 days but can incubate as long as 14 days. Panleuk is made worse when other viruses are present (URI).

Why is there an outbreak?

Because Panleuk is spread on all surfaces it is very difficult to eradicate. Microscopic particles of the virus can live on anything and it can live in the environment for a year if not cleaned with a parvocidal cleaner or on a surface that is uncleanable (dirt), making the virus highly transmittable.

When does it affect kittens?

Panleuk affects unvaccinated cats and kittens. Kittens are most susceptible between the ages of 3-12 weeks of age when their mothers antibodies are still “interfering” with the vaccine and they are either too young to be vaccinated or recently vaccinated.

What do I watch for?

The most common symptoms of Panleuk are: vomiting, anorexia, diarrhea, lethargy, sudden death. **Isolated symptoms are not always indicative of Panleuk. Many other illness can cause these same symptoms and almost all kittens have diarrhea that is not Panleuk! Normally we see a combination of the above.

What do I do if I see signs?

Contact the medical team as soon as possible. A clear medical history of the animal is extremely important. Often times the “trend” of the kittens health is just as important as the current symptoms. Treatment should start within 12 hours of first symptom so please act fast!

What does treatment consist of and how long does it last?

Panleuk is treated using injectable antibiotics, anti-diarrheals, anti nausea drugs, and fluids as well as force feedings. Treatments/feedings are done 2-6 times a day for approx 3-7 days.

Why can't I bring my sick kittens back to the shelter?

Because panleuk is so contagious bringing them back to the shelter puts every other kitten at risk. Additionally, the kitten has a better chance of survival with one on one care. YOU can provide the daily care needed for the kitten! Being in a home and receiving your care is key to saving lives versus living in a shelter with many other kittens that are all competing for care. We need you but the kitten needs you more! Also, your house has already been exposed to the virus so having the kitten leave will not “decontaminate” your space. It can be scary but we can teach you everything you need to know.

What steps is APA taking to control this outbreak?

- A) APA has made a Panleuk Ward and has put into effect strict guidelines to prevent cross-contamination between that and the nurseries.
- B) APA has created and effectively put into use a medical protocol to treat and release survivors.

What is the survival rate?

About 50% with early, aggressive treatment

What do I do if a kitten becomes critical?

Notify medical staff asap. Vet Techs are on call 24hrs a day. Start Fading Kitten Protocol.
medical clinic 512-466-0720, medtechs@austinpetsalive.org

What do I do if a kitten dies?

If a kitten dies notify staff in either the medical clinic or the nursery. Because it is contagious it is best not to bury the body. You can bring it to the medical clinic as soon as possible. Wrap the body in a small towel and plastic bag and label it with either it's name or A#. If you cannot come that day storage is best in a freezer. When you bring it to the clinic let staff know it died of Panleuk and who the kitten is.

Thank you for caring for these kittens!!!!

How To Disinfect A Home After Panleuk

1. Wash all fabrics the cat has touched. Use bleach in the warm-wash cycle to kill any Panleuk that may be present in the fabric. Include any bedding, blankets, towels, pillows, [rugs](#), or clothing the cat has had contact with.
2. Disinfect [flooring](#). Use a solution ratio of 1:31 (water: bleach) to disinfect hard surfaces such as tile, wood, cement, and linoleum. Use a stiff scrub brush to thoroughly clean the entire floor, including corners. Pour the bleach solution down the drain. Mix another bleach solution and repeat the process to ensure that all traces of the virus are killed.
3. Wipe down counters, [cabinets](#) and doors using a large spray bottle filled with a solution of two parts bleach to one part warm water. With a sponge, use small circular motions to thoroughly scrub the surfaces with the bleach mixture. Rinse the surfaces with warm water and allow to dry.
4. Remove all feces on your property. Place feces in a plastic trash bag and seal tightly. Remove and dispose of the bag away from the property. Disinfect areas where feces were found with a mix of two parts bleach to one part water.

Guidelines for fostering After PL

If your PL kittens were kept in an isolated, separate area (like cage or hard-scrubbable bathroom), then you can foster unvaccinated kittens once you have decontaminated as per above protocol, and replaced all supplies (litter boxes, scoops, bowls, toys etc). But it is strongly recommended that for a period of 6 months you keep any new kittens in a completely different isolated area than the PL litter had been kept in previously, as an additional measure of caution. Post-PL kittens are a great choice for these homes too, as these kittens have gained immunity and are no longer at any risk from the virus.

If your PL kittens were kept in a non-quarantined area, however, (ie throughout the house / carpeted area unable to be hard-scrubbed), you will need to limit your fostering for a period of 1 year to post-panleuk kittens and/or kittens who are over 4months and have had a minimum of 2 vaccines.

We appreciate your partnering with us to try and keep our kittens as healthy and happy as possible.