**Feline Upper Respiratory Disease**

**Herpesvirus** (also called feline rhinotracheitis virus)

How do cats get infected?

* Direct contact with infected cats
* Aerosol spray from sneezing – up to 4 feet
* The virus can live in the environment for 12-18 hours
* The virus is killed by most disinfectants
* Stressed cats will be more susceptible

What are the symptoms (acute disease)?

* Sneezing, coughing
* Nasal discharge (clear if it is just the virus, discolored if there is a secondary bacterial infection)
* Red, runny eyes (conjunctivitis)
* Fever, inappetence, lethargy
* Usually resolves in 7-10 days, but can cause some residual sneezing for 4-8 weeks

What are the symptoms (chronic infection)?

* Sinusitis, chronic sneezing and nasal discharge
* Chronic eye discharge

How is it treated?

* There is no direct treatment since this is a virus
* Antibiotics to treat secondary infections (doxycycline)
* Eye medications (Tobramycin) if conjunctivitis is involved
* Saline nasal drops, antihistamines
* Antivirals – (idoxuridine for eyes, oral famciclovir)
* Symptomatic treatment – steam, warm, smelly foods
* Vaccination – does not prevent infection, only lessens clinical signs

**Calicivirus**

How do cats get infected?

* Direct contact
* Aerosol spray from sneezing – up to 4 feet
* The virus can live in the environment for 8-10 days
* The virus is killed by bleach or Accel
* Stressed cats will be more susceptible

What are the symptoms?

* Sneezing
* Nasal discharge
* Red, runny eyes (conjunctivitis)
* Often high fever, inappetence, lethargy (especially kittens)
* Ulcers on the tongue
* Limping in kittens (it can even start in one leg and move to another)
* Takes longer to resolve than herpes (10-14 days)
* Can have chronic carriers
* There are some forms that can be very dangerous

How is it treated?

* There is no direct treatment since this is a virus
* Antibiotics to treat secondary infections (doxycycline)
* Eye medications (Tobramycin) if conjunctivitis is involved
* Antihistamines
* Symptomatic treatment – steam, warm smelly foods
* Vaccination – does not prevent infection, only lessens clinical signs and it does not protect against all strains of calici