



## FELINE INFECTIOUS PERITONITIS (FIP)

Feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) is a deadly viral disease that kills more than half a million cats a year in this country. Unfortunately, there is no effective treatment or cure for FIP.

### FACTS ABOUT FIP

FIP is a serious, contagious disease of cats that is nearly always progressive and fatal once a cat shows symptoms of the illness. There is no effective treatment or cure for FIP.

While cats of all ages are susceptible, FIP occurs most often in kittens and cats under two years of age, and in older cats.

There are two forms of FIP. In the wet form, there is a fluid buildup in the abdominal or chest cavities. A dry form can attack and damage many organs, producing a wide variety of symptoms. Cats can also have a combination of these two forms of FIP.

The virus that causes FIP is a corona virus that is most likely transmitted by a fairly continuous exposure over a prolonged period. Cats that are overstressed are probably more susceptible to FIP.

FIP is hard to diagnose since its clinical signs mimic other feline diseases and there is no accurate test to distinguish FIP from other, less harmful, feline illnesses.

Cats most at risk include those in multi-cat households and cats allowed to roam outdoors. An intranasal vaccine is available that can offer some protection to your cat by inducing anti-viral immunity in the nasal passages and saliva.