



Bonnie L. Hays

SMALL ANIMAL SHELTER

of

WASHINGTON COUNTY

PANLEUKOPENIA (FELINE DISTEMPER) FACTS

◆ Feline Panleukopenia (sometimes called Feline Distemper) is a highly infectious viral disease. It has been confirmed that there has been at least one case of the disease at the shelter.

◆ Signs of the disease include:

- Diarrhea (sometimes bloody)
- Vomiting
- Lethargy
- Fever

If your cat may have been exposed to the virus and has these symptoms, contact your veterinarian immediately.

◆ This disease can be fatal, especially in kittens. Kittens that develop Panleukopenia may have a mortality rate up to 90 percent. Adult cats, or cats that have been vaccinated, are far more likely to survive the illness.

◆ Feline Panleukopenia is highly contagious, so cats that may have been exposed should be isolated away from other cats. The incubation period for the illness is 14 days. Cats that may have been exposed should be kept in an easily-cleaned area for 14 days to be sure they don't come down with the disease. (The areas where the cats have stayed should then be very thoroughly cleaned with a 1:32 bleach solution.)

◆ Cats that have current vaccinations for Feline Panleukopenia receive excellent immunity and are at minimal risk of developing the illness.

◆ Because there are documented cases of Feline Panleukopenia in several areas in Washington County, people with pet cats should seriously consider keeping their own cats indoors to avoid exposure. All cats should be vaccinated against the disease.

◆ People who have adopted cats from the Bonnie L. Hays Small Animal Shelter during the past 14 days are being contacted. They are being advised about the situation.