

## Infectious Disease Information

This colony of cats has been documented to contain a number of infectious diseases. It is unknown which individual cats are infected with which infectious agents, although it is safe to assume that they have all been exposed and many of them likely harbor more than one of these pathogens. We encourage you to work with your veterinarian to thoroughly assess the individual cats in your care prior to exposing them to any other animals in your facility or home.

- Common components of upper respiratory infections including feline calicivirus, feline herpesvirus-1, *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, *Mycoplasma* spp., and *Chlamydomphila felis* have been identified in a number of cats. In general, these diseases respond to appropriate treatment.
- Common gastrointestinal parasites, such as *Tritrichomonas fetus*, *Isospora* spp. (Coccidia), *Giardia* spp., *Toxocara* spp. (Roundworms), and *Spirometra* spp. (Tapeworms) were also identified. Some of these infections may be difficult to treat, but generally do not result in serious infection.
- Feline enteric coronavirus was identified in this facility. Although this generally results in mild gastrointestinal disease that is self-limiting, it may be related to the development of feline infectious peritonitis (FIP) in certain individuals.
- *Cryptosporidium* spp. were also identified in cats from this facility. These infections generally occur in the face some other concurrent illness and should resolve with treatment of the underlying disease process.
- A number of cats were identified as being infested with external parasites such as *Cheyletiella* spp. (walking dandruff), *Otodectes cynotis* (ear mites), and *Felicola subrostratus* (lice). These infestations are all readily treatable although they are easily transmissible to other cats.

We will provide more detailed information about these infectious diseases for your veterinarian and management staff. Please work with them closely to develop appropriate protocols for the care of these cats as well as to prevent the transmission of these diseases to your current population of animals.