

### Protocol for Preventing Introduction or Minimizing Spread of Feline Coronavirus (FCoV) in Multicat Households

- Reduction of fecal contamination in the environment
  - There should be at least one litterbox for every one or two cats.
  - The litterboxes and the surrounding areas should be cleaned daily.
  - All litter should be removed from the litterboxes and the boxes disinfected with a 1:32 dilution of household bleach at least once a week.
  - Litterboxes should be placed in an easy-to-clean area away from the feeding area.
- Proper housing and care
  - A household should have no more than 8 to 10 cats.
  - Cats should be kept in stable groups of three or four to minimize stress and fecal contamination.
  - In rescue facilities, shelters, and boarding facilities, cats should be housed singly.
  - Food should be kept away from litterboxes.
- Serologic testing for FCoV antibody
  - FCoV serology should not be used to diagnose feline infectious peritonitis
  - FCoV serology should not be used as a sole means for eradicating FIP from a household.
  - \* To prevent introduction of FCoV into an FCoV-free multicat household, all new cats should be seronegative prior to introduction.
  - All breeding queens should be tested before parturition; seropositive queens should be removed from their kittens when the kittens are 5 to 6 weeks old.
  - FCoV-seropositive cats are at greater risk of developing FIP, but minimizing stress and fecal contamination can greatly reduce the odds that FIP will develop.
- Early weaning and isolation in catteries where FCoV is enzootic
  - The kitten isolation room should be cleared of all cats for 1 week and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with a 1:32 dilution of household bleach.
  - The queen should be introduced into the kitten room 1 to 2 weeks before parturition.
  - Litterboxes, food containers, and water bowls should all be thoroughly disinfected and used only for the kitten room.
  - The kitten room should always be cleaned first. Because of the possibility of fomite contamination, the caregiver should wear shoes and clothes dedicated for use only in the kitten room and should wash hands prior to entering.
  - All breeding queens should be tested prior to parturition; seropositive queens should be removed from their kittens when the kittens are 5 to 6 weeks old.
- Intranasal vaccination
  - The vaccination should not be used as a sole means of control for FIP but may be a beneficial adjunct in an overall prevention plan.
  - The vaccination is recommended for cats that are to be introduced into settings where FCoV is enzootic.
  - \* Vaccination of cats from one- or two-cat households is not recommended because these cats are at low risk for the development of FIP.
  - \* The intranasal vaccine has only been proved to decrease the incidence of      in cats that were seronegative at vaccination,