STOP THE SPREAD OF FELINE PANLEUKOPENIA (FPV)

A Guide for Community Cat Trappers

Protect Community Cats • Protect Your Pets • Protect Future TNVR Efforts

What is FPV?

Feline panleukopenia (FPV) is one of the most contagious and potentially fatal diseases affecting cats. It can survive in the environment for months to over a year. The incubation period is typically 2–7 days, meaning infected cats may appear healthy while already shedding the virus. Treat every community cat as a potential carrier.

Signs of Illness

• Loss of appetite • Vomiting • Diarrhea (sometimes bloody) • Severe lethargy • Fever • Dehydration • Weakness/collapse.

Kittens can decline rapidly, often within 24–48 hours after symptoms begin. Do NOT release a cat that is severely ill or not recovering normally after surgery.

Vaccination Saves Lives

Every community cat receives an FVRCP vaccine during surgery. However, protection is NOT immediate—it generally takes 7–14 days for immunity to develop. A recently vaccinated cat can still become infected if exposed. Since feral cats often cannot receive booster vaccines, proper sanitation is just as important as vaccination. Keep your own pets current on FVRCP vaccines.

SANITIZE YOUR TRAPS AFTER EVERY USE

This is the single most important step you can take to prevent the spread of FPV.

1. Clean First

Remove dirt, feces, urine, food and hair with soap and water.

2. Disinfect

Use Rescue™ Disinfectant (per label directions) or a bleach solution of 1 part bleach to 30 parts water. Keep surfaces wet for at least 10 minutes before rinsing or air drying. Correct dilution is essential.

Remember Your Vehicle

FPV can spread on traps, trap covers, towels, shoes, clothing, hands, vehicle carpeting and upholstery. Use a plastic liner when transporting cats and disinfect contaminated areas after each transport.

Protect Pets at Home

Recover community cats indoors only in a separate room away from household pets. Wash hands, change contaminated clothing, and disinfect all equipment before reuse.

Trap Setup

Use newspaper only. Avoid towels, blankets and cardboard because they are difficult to disinfect.

REMEMBER

- Cats may be contagious before they appear sick.
- The FVRCP vaccine does not provide immediate protection.
- Clean and disinfect every trap after every use.

Clean Traps. Healthy Cats.
Every Trap. Every Cat. Every Time.