

# Hunt Valley Animal Hospital Newsletter



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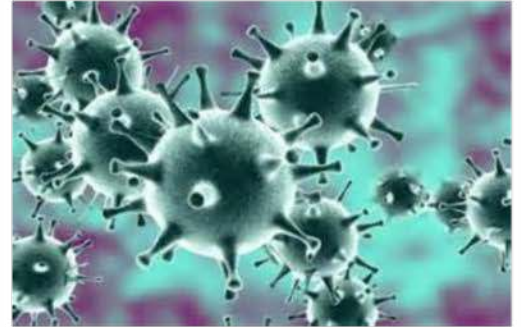
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## ***Feline Infectious Peritonitis ...*** What it is, and what you should know.

Feline Infectious Peritonitis, known as FIP is a viral disease in cats caused by the feline coronavirus. Most cats generally will not show any symptoms during the initial viral infection. In about 5-10% of the infected cats, due to a mutation of the virus or abnormality of the immune system, the infection will progress into clinical FIP, in which the virus is then referred to as FIPV. White blood cells become infected with the virus, thus transporting it throughout the cats body. A fierce inflammatory reaction occurs around the vessels in the tissues where the cells are located, most often the abdomen, kidney, or brain. Once a cat progresses to clinical FIP attacking one or more systems of the body, the disease is almost always fatal.



Although any cat carrying the coronavirus is at risk for developing FIP, those with a weak immune system are most likely to develop FIP - this includes kittens, cats infected with the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) as well as older cats. It is most commonly found in cats under the age of 2 years, however cats of any age can become infected with FIP. Despite how it may appear, FIP is actually not a highly contagious disease. The reason for this is because by the time the cat reaches the clinical disease, only a small amount of the virus is being shed.

Feline coronavirus can be found largely in the saliva and feces during the acute infection and lesser in those that are carriers or have recovered. Cats can be infected via cat to cat contact and exposure to infected feces. The virus can live in the environment for several weeks. The most common transmission of the feline coronavirus happens when an infected mother cat passes it onto her kittens when they are about 5 - 8 weeks in age. FIP is not typically common in the general cat population, but moreso in multi-cat areas such as kennels and shelters.

After initial exposure to the coronavirus, cats do not typically show symptoms. Once the virus begins to progress, noted symptoms are mild upper respiratory symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge, and watery eyes. Some may experience mild intestinal issues such as diarrhea. Only a small percentage of cats exposed to the coronavirus actually develop FIP, and it can take weeks, months, even years to develop.

There are two forms of FIP, the "wet" and the "dry". Cats with the "dry" form will often show signs of loss of appetite, weight loss, depression, anemia, and a fever that doesn't seem to respond to antibiotics. Those diagnosed with the "wet" form shows the same symptoms as the "dry" however it will progress more quickly and also have fluid build up in the abdomen, and even sometimes the chest area.

Currently there are no fool proof tests available to diagnose FIP. Idexx laboratory has in recent developments released testing that can identify biotypes. Again, just having exposure to the coronavirus does not mean the cat will develop FIP. There is currently no known cure for FIP, treatment is more geared toward supportive care. Research continues to find drugs that could prevent or at the very least slow down the production of the virus.

## Employee Spotlight is on...

### Kathleen

Kathleen just celebrated her 16th year with us, and we are so thankful to have her! Originally from Baltimore, Kathleen now calls Halethorpe her home. She has a large family that consists of three brothers, five sisters, twelve nieces and nephews, and five great nieces and nephews. Still blessed to have her mother by her side, she did say good-bye to her father back in 1999 due to Alzheimer's.



Although Kathleen reflects on all of her clients as "her pet", she holds dear memories of her previous fur loves, Skippy (after the peanut butter), Beer (because he liked the taste of it), Star (found on an evening of a star lit sky), and Jenny (who had the kindest spirit).

Kathleen is a writer of poetry and short stories, and enjoys designing her own greeting cards, and furniture art. She enjoys reading and is known to be an avid walker.

Kathleen is a passionate advocate for those suffering from Superior Canal Dehiscence Syndrome as she does. SCDS is a rare medical condition of the inner ear, leading to hearing and balance symptoms in those affected. She works very hard to educate others of this rare, most often unheard of disease.

What some may not know about Kathleen is that her given name is actually Mary, and Kathleen is her middle name. When becoming confirmed into the catholic church, she chose Francis as her confirmation name after St. Francis of Assisi, as he was the patron saint of all animals and their environment.

### Meet our condo kitty "Edgar"!

Edgar is available for adoption through Defenders of Animal Rights - he is a 6 month male neutered sweetheart. He was found abandoned with his siblings who have since been adopted. He loves to snuggle and play and is good with other cats, however we are unsure how he would be around dogs. He has a sensitive tummy and requires a special diet. If you would like to meet Edgar stop by our office!



### Hey Kids!!!!

Enter our "bulldog" coloring contest & the winner will be a contest judge at "Bulldog Day"!

All colored artwork must be submitted by March 31st

## Bulldog Day 2017

Bulldogs \* Pugs \* Frenchies \* Bostons

All breeds welcome!

When: Sunday, April 9, 2017 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

\*\*\*Rain or Shine\*\*\*

Where: Maryland Agricultural Resource Council



"FREE Admission" \* "FREE Parking"  
"Food Trucks" \* "Contests" \* "Kissing Booth"  
"FREE Give-a-ways" \* "Demonstrations" \* "Educational Lectures" "Hiking Trails" \* "Rescue Groups Showcasing Adoptable Dogs"

Bulldog Day is a day to celebrate the uniqueness and wonderfulness that is a bulldog and like breeds. This is not just for our clients, this is a day for everyone that loves the breeds and wants to have fun and enjoy the silliness!



If you would like to enter one of the contests listed below, email us at: [bulldogday@huntvalleyanimalhospital.com](mailto:bulldogday@huntvalleyanimalhospital.com) - registration is FREE!

"Best French Bulldog" "Longest Tongue"  
"Best Costume" "Best Senior (over 7 years)"  
"Best English Bulldog" "Best Bark"  
"Best Underbite" "Talent Competition"  
"Best Puppy (under 1 year)"

