

IMPORTANT NOTICE RE FELINE PARVOVIRUS

There had been much on social media about an outbreak of feline Parvovirus from shows in Queensland. A meeting was held on Friday evening attended by Isobel Johnstone (FCCQ), Julie Walker (QICC) Barbara LaRocca and Robbie Walker (QFA) to discuss the issue below is a brief summary of the meeting. The outcome of the meeting is below and will be forwarded to the Secretary of Cats Queensland who unfortunately could not attend.

Many people have been consulted re their knowledge of a possible outbreak and a new strain of panleukopenia (Feline enteritis, feline parvovirus). Those contacted include Richard Malik – University of Sydney Veterinary School, Marcus Gunew – Cat Clinic (QLD) both feline specialists, Ann Thompson University of Queensland vet clinic a small animal specialist. Vaccine company representatives . None have knowledge of a new outbreak or that there is a new strain out there resistant to the current vaccines.

The Cat Clinic's recommended current vaccination protocol is F3 vaccine, preferably modified live vaccines as they give a faster immunity and more rapid protection at 8, 12 and 16 weeks and then an annual booster. The sixteen week vaccine is important as in some kittens maternal antibodies are capable of interfering with vaccine effectiveness and will persist past 12 weeks of age. Whether a modified live or killed vaccine is to be given will be up to individuals in consultation with their vet however it is important that the correct vaccination protocol is followed. Marcus Gunew's take on annual vs 3 yearly is that the herpes component does not provide adequate protection by 3 years (reduction in clinical signs at 3 years is median 50%) so he still recommends annual vaccination especially for those cats at higher risk (eg boarding and cat shows) The data for panleukopenia is that there is excellent evidence of sterilising immunity lasting at least 7 years after the kitten series and first annual.

The following are the recommendations from the meeting

- Minimum age for showing raised to 3 months and no litter classes. Rationale is that maternal antibody can persist past 12 weeks and interfere with the effectiveness of the vaccine. Even the 12 week kitten may not be covered therefore should preferably not be shown until 4 months of age.
- Kittens must have had two vaccinations
- Exhibitors to provide vaccination certificates with entries (if at time of close of entries they have had only one then would be required to produce proof of second vaccination on day of show).

- Use F10 at shows with an increased dilution rate of 1:125ml, and is effective against bacteria and parvovirus. F10 at the recommended concentration ideally take a contact time should be 10 mins which of course we never give it, however, it does dry on the table each time and even on the hands.
- Judges and stewards may opt to use a hand sanitiser such as Aquium gel or foam these are available at chemists.
- Teasers used by judges not to go into cats mouths or touch cats. If they do they are to be sprayed with F10 and put aside to dry for at least 15 minutes.
- Educate new breeders on importance of correct vaccination protocols as well as reminding current breeders and exhibitors. This could be by way of a brochure that is sent out with new prefix applications, distributed to breeders and exhibitors as well as to members of the public
- As already discussed the importance of signage at shows and a pamphlet given to exhibitors about not putting fingers in cages.
- No 14 day exclusion period.