

FOSTER GUIDE BOOK



MEDICATING CATS'

Quick Reference

TEN LIVES CAT CENTRE

Ten Lives Cat Centre

12 Selfs Point Road, New Town, Tasmania 7008

Telephone: **03 6278 2111**

Opening hours

WEEKDAYS – We are open from 10am each morning and close at 4pm each afternoon.

WEEKENDS – On weekends, we are open from 10am until 4pm Saturday and **CLOSED** Sunday.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – We are **CLOSED** all public holidays.

AHVEC

AHVEC – After Hours Veterinary Emergency Centre

37 Derwent Park Rd, Moonah

Telephone: **1300 302 912**

Opening hours

WEEKDAYS – Open from 6pm each evening and close at 8am each morning.

WEEKENDS – On weekends, AHVEC are available 24 hours, opening at 6pm Friday until 8am Monday morning.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS – **OPEN** all public holidays.

v200414A

Foster Guide Book - Medicating Cats'

Introduction.....	Page 4
Your Safety.....	Page 5
The cats' . safety.....	Page 5
Cat scratches and bites.....	Page 6
Low stress techniques.....	Page 8
Rewards.....	Page 8
No scruff zone (why we do not scruff cats').....	Page 9
Towel wrap technique.....	Page 10
Administering oral (via the mouth) medications	Page 12
Administering ear medications.....	Page 16
Administering eye medications.....	Page 18
Medications Commonly prescribed	Page 20
Administering Ringworm medications + treatments.....	Page 22
What's involved in becoming a Ringworm foster carer.....	Page 22
Guidelines for sick cats' and kittens'	Page 23

Foster Guide Book - Medicating Cats'

Welcome to the team.

Thank you for opening your heart and home to help the cats' and kittens who find themselves at the Ten Lives Cat Centre for various reasons. The Ten Lives Vet Team diagnose and prescribe medications but without YOUR help and time the cats cannot become better. We greatly appreciate the time, effort, (sometimes stress) and overall love you give to the cats. We admire what you do.

This booklet will provide you with advice and tips on how to medicate cats/kittens in a low stress manner.

Purpose of training/ this booklet is to;

- Help advance your current skill set as a foster carer through knowledge.
- Provide you with advice on safe and easy ways to medicate cats in your care.
- Guide you in ways to medicate cats in a low stress manner.
- Improve your understanding of the different types of medications and what they are used for.
- How to read medication labels and understand Veterinary directions.
- Advice on what to do if you overdosed or missed a medication dose
- Improve your overall confidence in caring for cats on medication.

When medicating cats/kittens there are 5 important things to remember;

Your safety

The cats' safety

Low stress techniques

Read medication label directions and read them again

Positive reinforcement

Your safety

When administering medications remember your own safety first. Some cats will attempt to stop you administering the medication by using their claws. Occasionally a cat may bite or more commonly they close their mouth quickly when oral medications are administered. Always practice safe handling techniques and book a vet appointment if you are struggling to medicate safely.

Medicating cats is made easier and safer with two people. Where possible have one person to gently restrain the cat and a second person to administer the medication. If you are administering the medication by yourself, you may find it easiest to place your cat in your lap and use the towel wrap technique (Page 10)

Store medications out of reach of children and any other household pets.

Seek medical attention immediately if your child has ingested any medication.

Contact your own Veterinarian or AHVEC (afterhours) if your household pet has ingested any medication.

The cats' safety

When giving medications it's important to read the medication label carefully and follow any additional directions on the medication sheet. Medications may be once, twice or up to four times a day. Always pause to check how often it is due and when it is to be started (e.g AM or PM) to avoid accidental overdose. Some medications can have serious health consequences if given too often.

If you miss a dose, resume giving the medicine the next time it is due. If you miss more than one dose, contact Ten Lives for advice from our Vet Team. Never give more than one dose of medication to your cat at a time.

Please contact Ten Lives or AHVEC afterhours if you have accidentally overdosed (more than one dose) of the prescribed medication.

If after starting any medication your cat has the following symptoms; stop medication AND book an appointment with the Vet Team.

- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Lethargy (decreased/ lack of energy)
- Inappetence (not eating)
- Foaming from the mouth or hypersalivation (excessive saliva/ drooling)

Cat scratches and bites

Your health and safety is important to us!

It's not uncommon to get an occasional scratch when playing with your foster cat or kitten. It is often accidental, however if you believe the scratch came from aggressive, defensive or unprovoked behaviour please contact the Ten Lives to discuss the cats' behaviour.

If at any point you feel unsafe around your foster cat and/or you do not want to continue fostering them, please contact us to return them into our care.

Cat Bites

If you are bitten by a cat and your skin is broken, clean the wound thoroughly with running water and soap, apply iodine (betadine)/antiseptic and cover with a wound dressing (eg bandaid). **Seek medical attention immediately.** Most cat bites become infected due to the bacterium in their mouths and **must** be seen by your doctor.

Cat Scratches

Any scratch regardless of size should be cleaned thoroughly (as described below) and monitored for complications. If you are at all concerned about a scratch, or you have any signs of infection (as listed below) please seek medical attention promptly. Your Doctor will be able to assess your wound and advise you on the appropriate treatment.

How to clean a cat scratch

1. Wash any cat scratch thoroughly with soap and running water. Pat dry the area of skin with a clean towel.
2. If your scratch is bleeding, apply gentle pressure with a clean gauze pad. Apply iodine (betadine)/antiseptic and cover with a wound dressing (eg bandaid)
3. Seek medical attention

If you have not received medical attention it is important to monitor the scratch carefully over the next few days for symptoms of infection, such as:

- scratches or bites that increasingly become redder or discoloured
- increased swelling
- pus or drainage
- red or discoloured streaks emitting from the original scratch
- fever, aches, and other flu-like symptoms
- body rashes
- swollen lymph nodes
- excessive fatigue and weakness

Call your Doctor immediately if you're experiencing any of the above symptoms.

Risks associated with cat scratches

Both feral AND domesticated cats may transmit certain viruses and bacteria when they scratch human skin. Some of the possible health complications are serious, these include:

- cat-scratch fever
- tetanus

Cat-scratch fever refers to a bacterial infection caused by *Bartonella henselae*. Cats may carry the bacterium in their saliva. Whilst not all cats carry the bacterium it is important to be diligent with cleaning any scratch and seek medical attention

It's important to call a doctor if you're presenting with *any* symptoms of an infection after a cat scratch so you may be treated properly.

Low Stress techniques

We greatly appreciate your care of our cats. With your help we are able to treat their medical conditions, return them to full health and ultimately be adopted. However we understand that medicating our cats isn't always easy. One of the best ways to make medicating cats easier is to practice Low Stress techniques, a 'less is more' approach and positive reinforcement.

Basic tips;

- Talk softly to your cat
- Use calm and slow body movements
- Never interrupt your cat from eating, using the litter tray, or grooming to medicate them.
- Administer medications at a regular time and in the same place
- Choose an area, away from their food or hiding spots (these are their safe places) to medicate them.
- Choose a quiet area in your home, away from other pets or distractions,
- Always offer a reward* to your cat after medicating them.

If cats' associate the medication with some positives experiences that balances the negatives.

Rewards

*Choose a reward that is of high value to your cat. For some cats this is food, others prefer stroking and petting and for kittens 'play' is often valued highest.

If your cat values 'food' as the highest reward, remember to keep treats to small amounts to avoid upsetting their stomach and causing diarrhoea or vomiting. Cooked chicken breast (no bones or skin) is often a safe treat to use. Please feel to ask the vet team about an appropriate food reward that is suitable for their condition, age and dietary requirements.

Never use cheese or dairy milk (some cats are lactose intolerant), or uncooked meat as a treat.

If you need more than a reward to medicate your cat, we recommend you try a towel wrap or some of the other low stress techniques on pages 10

No Scruff zone- Why we do not scruff;

At Ten Lives we advocate gentle low stress handling and we do not use 'scruffing' as a form of restraint. Scruffing is the term used to describe restraining a cat by firmly gripping the loose skin at the back of the cats neck. For a long time it was (inaccurately) believed that cats didn't mind being scruffed. As it was thought to have mimicked the behaviour of the mother cat (queen) who will carry her kittens by the scruff to move them to safety.

However when a mother cat does this the kittens go limp due to a flexor reflex. This reflex is only present during the first weeks of a kittens life. Mothers only grab them by the scruff to transport them and never for discipline. Cats also have pressure sensors in their teeth and so she knows the precise pressure to place on the skin at the back of the neck without hurting them. You may have witnessed this incredible control, with a cat holding an insect in their mouth and when they let it go it is unharmed. Similar control is seen in a cat 'play biting' without breaking the skin.

The only other times cats are grabbed by the scruff of the neck is during mating, fighting and when being attacked by a predator. I think we can all agree we don't want our foster cats to think we are doing any of these things to them.

Being scruffed as an adult cat by a human is intimidating and leads to negative emotions. Scruffing causes fear and panic and provokes (or escalates) defensive aggression. Research has shown that cats struggle more when being heavily restrained than when being lightly restrained. Scruffing cats can create lasting impacts on them, such as;

- Increase their level of fear and anxiety around ALL people.
- Create negative associations with you and can ruin your bond.
- Impact on their recovery from illness (as stress lowers their immune system).

When used, low stress techniques and positive reinforcement can make your roles as foster carers easier AND help to reduce stress in your foster cats lives.

Towel wrap technique

Towel wrapping will take some practice but is a very valuable tool for medicating cats. This technique allows you to restrain the cat, help to calm them, protects you from their claws and prevents them from moving or escaping- all of which means administering medications can be done quickly and with less stress.

Towel wrapping steps:

- Prepare your medications, re-read the directions
- Find a stable surface to administer the medications
- Collect a large towel
- Prepare rewards for positive reinforcement.
- Talk calmly and softly. Move calmly.
- Place your towel on a flat stable surface and position your cat on top of a towel (facing away from you- several inches from the front edge of a towel).
- Offer a small amount of wet food (or other Vet Team approved treat)
- Wrap your cat in the towel.

Grab either front corner of the towel, pull it up and behind the cats head so that it rests on the opposite side of the cats body.

Do the same for the other front corner of the towel.

The front of your towel should be covering the cats front legs and the front edge resting on their neck, under their chin.

The sides of the towel should now be criss-crossed behind the cats head and around their body.

Tuck any remaining towel around the body, bottom and tail.

Some cats will stand when being towel wrapped, the technique still works, just adjust the position of the cat so you have more towel in front of their legs.



Medicate the cat

Offer the cat a food reward, praise them and slowly release the towel restraint.

Prescribed medications are important however if you are finding that administering them is causing your cat to become overly distressed please contact the centre and speak with one of the Vet Team for advice.

Administering Oral (via the mouth) medications

Liquid medications in food

The easiest way to give your cat liquid oral medication is to mix it in with some wet food. To ensure that your cat swallows all of the medication, it is best to mix it into a small (tablespoon) amount of wet food rather than mixing it into a full bowl of food that the cat may not completely eat. Watch them to be sure that they have eaten all of the medicated food.

Layered syringe method for liquid medications

- Take a small amount of your cat's wet food and water it down, so it can easily flow through a 3ml syringe.
- Draw up the prescribed amount of medication into the syringe.
- Using the same syringe, draw up a small amount (e.g 1ml) of the watery wet food.
- Slowly press the syringe and allow your cat time to swallow the medication/food.
- Offer your cat a food reward.

This layering technique helps to make the medication more palatable.

Tablet/capsule medications in food

Cats can often smell the tablet form of medications and these are often bitter to taste. You may try hiding it in wet food or cooked chicken (no bones or skin) but watch them carefully to ensure they have swallowed the medication. Check that they have not eaten around the tablet or spat it out.

Some cats may be unwilling to eat the medicated food or may have dietary restrictions that prevent you from using this technique. If this is the case, you will need to administer the medication directly into the cat's mouth. The following pages describe other methods you may try.

Manual administration of oral medications

Liquid medication

- Gently restrain your cat in a towel wrap.
- Hold the syringe containing the oral medication with your dominant hand.
- With your other hand gently grasp your cat's head by placing your thumb on one side of the upper jaw/cheeks and your fingers on the other.
- Tilt your cat's head up slightly. The mouth will then open slightly.
- Place the tip of the syringe in the mouth, just behind one of the canine teeth ("fangs"), in the slight gap between the canine tooth and the pre-molars (teeth behind the canine tooth).
- Angle the syringe slightly to the side so that the tip of the syringe deposits the medication onto the tongue. Be carefully to avoid injecting the liquid straight into the back of the throat. This can increase the risk of the cat inhaling or aspirating the liquid into its lungs.
- Slowly squeeze the syringe to dispense the liquid medication. Make sure to do this slowly so the cat has time to swallow the liquid and breathe.



Most cats will spit out some of the medication. DO NOT re-medicate unless you are certain that **NONE** of the medication was swallowed.

Always offer a reward after giving the medication. This will make the experience more positive and may make it easier to give the medication the next time.

After each use, rinse the syringe thoroughly with water.

Tablet medication

- Hold the pill between your dominant hand's thumb and index finger.
- Gently grasp your cat's head from above with your other hand by placing your thumb on one side of the upper jaw/cheeks and your fingers on the other.
- Tilt your cat's head back so that their nose points to the ceiling. Their lower jaw should drop open slightly.
- With your tableting hand, use your little finger and ring finger to open your cat's mouth further by gently putting pressure on the lower lip and front teeth.
- Quickly place the tablet as far back over the tongue as possible. Try to place it on the back of the tongue to stimulate an automatic swallowing reflex, then close your cat's mouth and hold it closed while you return their head to a normal position.
- Gently rub your cat's throat or nose, to stimulate swallowing. Often a cat will lick its nose if it has swallowed the tablet.

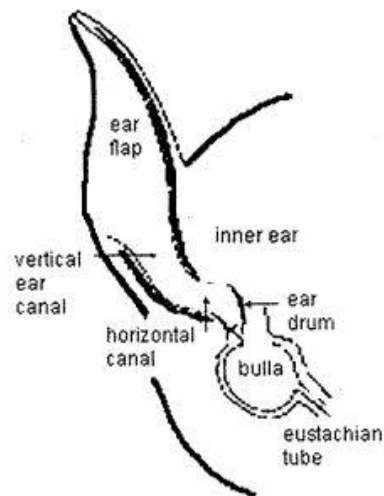
We recommend following the tablet with a syringe of 2-3mls of water or broth, to help the cat swallow. This also prevents the tablet from becoming stuck in the oesophagus. If your cat is food motivated, offering wet food for them to eat will have the same effect.



Always offer a reward after giving the medication. This will make the experience more positive and may make it easier to give the medication the next time.

If you continue to have difficulty, please book an appointment with the Vet Team and we can arrange some advice, training and/ or provide you with a 'pet piller'

Administering ear medications



When administering ear medication, be mindful that your cat's ear condition may be painful and that even the gentlest cat may respond by struggling, biting, or scratching. Administering ear medication is made easier and safer with two people and by using the towel wrap method*

Administering ear medicine can be messy, choose a space that's easy to clean (e.g., bathroom, laundry room)

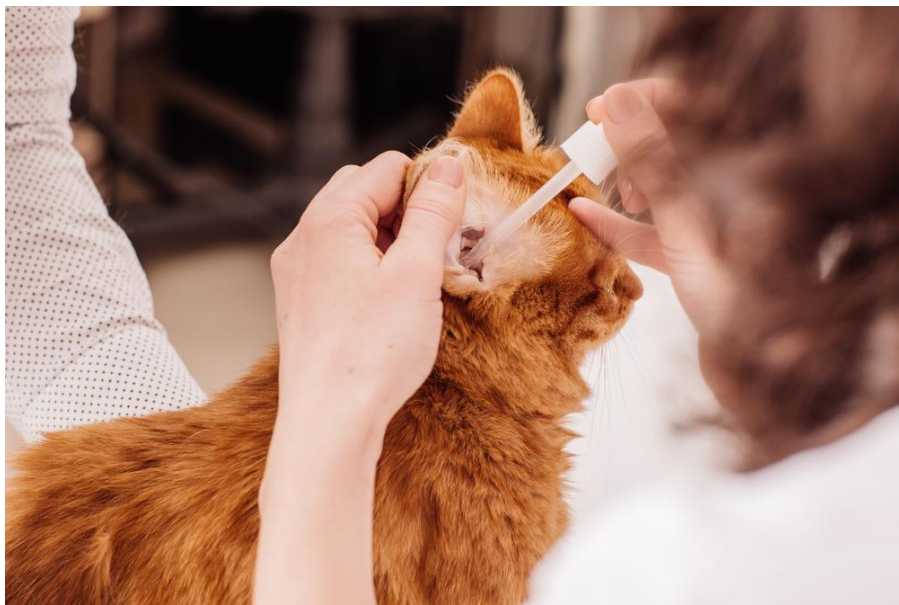
How to administer ear medication

- Gently restrain your cat in a towel wrap in your lap or on a sturdy surface.
- Draw up the liquid medication into the syringe or prepare to squeeze the bottle as per the label instructions.
- Hold the syringe or bottle between the thumb and forefinger of your dominant hand.
- Use your remaining hand to fold the outer ear/ earflap back gently so that you can see the ear canal.
- Slowly apply the prescribed dose of medication into the ear canal.
- Gently massage the base of the ear in a circular motion. You should hear a 'squishing' sound as you massage the medication deep into the ear canal.
- Release the ear and allow your cat to shake its head. When your cat shakes its head debris (dark matter) in the ear canal may come out.

-use a tissue or cotton ball to wipe their face.

-Always offer a reward after giving the medication. This will make the experience more positive and may make it easier to give the medication the next time

If your cat is resistant to having ear medication applied, book an appointment with the Vet Team for advice and training.



Administering eye medications



When administering eye medication, be mindful that your cat's eye condition may be painful or irritating and that even the gentlest cat may respond by struggling, biting, or scratching. Administering eye medication is made easier and safer with two people and by using the towel wrap method.

Wash your hands both before and after administering the medication to avoid contamination and prevent the possible spread of infection.

If your cats eyes are 'mucky' gently clean away any debris from around the cat's eyes with warm water and a clean soft cloth/ swab before administering the medication.

Medicating eyes on your own.

If you are administering the medication on your own, you may find it easiest to place your cat in your lap and using the towel wrap method.

- Gently restrain the cat in a towel wrap

- Place them in your lap, facing away from you

- With your non dominant hand gently hold the cats head. Rest their chin in the palm of your hand and place your fingers on either side of jaw/ cheek area. Be careful not to place your fingers too close to the mouth, to avoid being bitten.

- Tilt their head up slightly, so you can see their eye(s) clearly

-With your dominant hand, hold the medication between your thumb and index finger.

-With your remaining fingers, gently pull back the area above their eye. The lower eyelid will act as a pouch to receive the medication

Hold the tube close to the eye, but to avoid damaging the eye surface make sure you do not touch the eye's surface with the tube tip.

Squeeze the prescribed amount of medication directly onto the eye, and then release your cat's head.

The cat will blink, and the medication will spread over the surface of the eye.

Always offer a reward after giving the medication. This will make the experience more positive and may make it easier to give the medication the next time

Please book an appointment with the Ten Lives Vet Team If the following occurs

- your cat's eye(s) appear severely inflamed or painful
- if the condition appears to worsen
- your cat is continually pawing at their eye- even when your not administering medication



Medications commonly prescribed

Medications for the treatment of Cat flu/ viral + bacterial infections;

Oral= via mouth

Clavulox drops. A palatable liquid antibiotic. . For oral administration only. Keep Refrigerated. Shake before every use. Discard any unused suspension after 10 days

Doxycycline liquid. Liquid antibiotic- some cats dislike the taste. For oral administration only. Shake before every use. Discard any unused liquid after 2 weeks.

Vibravet paste (or Doxy paste). A palatable oral antibiotic. For oral administration only. Dosage is in notch(s). To give a notch, bend the plastic tab down and push plunger.

Amoxyclav tablets. Oral antibiotic. Most cats dislike the taste and or smell. Always follow tablets with syringe of water or food to prevent the tablet getting caught in the oesophagus. This can cause scarring and result in a narrowing of the oesophagus known as a stricture.

It is not uncommon for this medication to cause diarrhea. If diarrhea occurs stop medication and call vet team.

Celluvisc. Liquid ocular lubrication- for eyes only. Non medicated. Helps lubricate dry and sore eyes.

Medications for the treatment of Injuries/ trauma;

Meloxicam oral liquid. used to relieve pain and inflammation. Meloxicam MUST be given with food to reduce gastrointestinal side effects. Meloxicam should be used with caution in cats. Overdose can cause kidney failure. Stop medication if not eating, vomiting, diarrhea or blood in stools AND book an appointment with the Vet Team

Gabapentin capsules. usually used to manage chronic pain, especially nerve-related pain. May also be used to relieve anxiety. May cause sleepiness. Is dispensed in capsule but easiest to give the powder contents in wet food.

Medications for the treatment of ear conditions;

Surotan ear drops. Topical antifungal, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory for ears (occasionally skin). Shake bottle before use.

Remove top of bottle to insert a clean syringe and draw up amount as prescribed by the Vet. Always use a clean syringe to prevent contamination of medication. This product will leave an oily trace especially on cats face.

Illium ear drops. insecticidal, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal ear drops. Helps to dissolve wax. Contains lignocaine hydrochloride to help reduce pain and inflammation. Shake bottle before use.

Remove top of bottle to insert a clean syringe and draw up amount as prescribed by the Vet. Always use a clean syringe to prevent contamination of medication. This product will leave an oily trace especially on cats face.

Paws cleaner. Gentle, non-irritant **ear cleaner** · Softens, dissolves and removes excess wax, dirt and debris. Place bottle into ear canal- slowly express, then massage ear. Wipe away excess product and any debris that has come out of ear. Wipe bottle tip after use.

Medications for the treatment of Ringworm

Sporonox liquid. An oral antifungal medication used to treat fungal infections such as ringworm. It does not taste nice.

Cats on Sporonox receive weekly vet checks. In rare cases this medication can cause lack of appetite and vomiting. In very rare cases- liver toxicity can occur. Signs of liver toxicity include yellowing of the eyes, skin, or gums, vomiting (that continues), severe or bloody diarrhea, painful abdomen (stomach), or changes in behaviour. In any of these symptoms occur stop medication and contact the vet team.

Austrazole. A topical fungicide for treatment of ringworm. Add warm water to 20 mL of Austrazole to make up to 1 Litre. Make up the quantity of wash needed to treat the animal immediately. Discard any remaining unused diluted wash after application. Leave on skin- do not wash off. Ensure cat is warmed after bath.

Administering Ringworm medications and treatments

Ringworm is a treatable condition but requires the help of committed foster carers to help cats and kittens recover. Ringworm cats/kittens cope better into foster homes as it provides them with comfort and joy during their lengthy treatment, reduces their risk of catching other contagious illnesses and the risk of spores spreading through the shelter. Caring for ringworm cats or kittens is highly rewarding as you help them recover from their fungal infection (and ultimately to being adopted).

Ringworm foster carers are highly sort after. If you are interested in helping a cat/kitten with ringworm please read on and/or contact Ten Lives for more information.

What is ringworm?

Despite its name ringworm is not a worm, it is a contagious fungal infection that can affect both animals and humans.

In cats ringworm can affect the skin, fur, and claws. It can cause crusty skin, hairloss patches and itchiness- we refer to these as ringworm lesions. The most common areas for ringworm to occur are the face, ear tips, tail, and feet.

In humans ringworm may appear as a red, circular rash. intact skin is quite resistant to infection, but any abrasion or damage to the skin will allow infection to develop more readily.

Cats become infected when they come into contact with an animal with *active* ringworm lesions or an environment containing ringworm spores.

A cat with a compromised immune system (e.g orphan kittens, stressed cats, mums and kittens with poor nutritional status) are much more likely to succumb to infection. A healthy, non-stressed, adult cat who is grooming appropriately can remain lesion free despite exposure to spores.

So what does it take to be a ringworm foster carer?

The good, the bad and the ugly.

It's important to note that homes with young children, the elderly, or those with compromised immune systems are not recommended to foster ringworm cats/kittens.

Ringworm is treatable. However treatment is intensive and takes a minimum of six weeks. Ten Lives will provide you with everything that you need for your cat(s) care, disinfectant and PPE for yourself.

To treat cats with ringworm, we require committed foster carers for the following.

- attend vet appointments once a week - once fortnightly.
- Administer oral medications daily (for 21 days, then 7 days off, then 7 days on...)
- Give the cat(s) a medicated bathe twice weekly
- have a designated, easy to clean room in your home (ideally without carpet e.g laundry room or bathroom).
- Daily cleaning (vacuuming/sweeping/dusting) to remove any hairs that have been shed.
- Deep clean twice weekly.

At the same time as bathing the cats, all bedding should be thrown away or washed* and all hard surfaces cleaned and disinfected- we will provide disinfectant for this purpose and additional bedding as required.

The fungus produces spores that can last in the environment for up to 18 months.

*At the end of fostering ringworm cat(s) will we ask you to take a short break to deep clean your house (x2), before fostering any **non-ringworm** cat(s) to reduce the risk of them becoming infected.*

Guidelines for sick cats and kittens



SYMPTOMS	COURSE OF ACTION
<p>CHANGE IN BREATHING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rate? faster/slower • depth? shallow/deep • open mouth breathing? • panting? • Gum colour? pale/blue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if concerned about breathing and cat / kitten is flat / lethargic / depressed or distressed then take to vet immediately - if not sure phone for advice
<p>DEMEANOUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bright/alert/normal vs • stressed/painful/distressed vs • lethargic/quiet/slow vs • wobbly/disoriented vs • non-responsive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if severe then take to vet immediately - if not sure phone for advice - look out for other issues; the vet is likely to ask about food and water intake, toileting, access to toxins, any injuries or wounds

SYMPTOMS	COURSE OF ACTION
<p>SEIZURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unconscious with thrashing, then periods of calm • often collapsed onto side • salivating, loss of bladder and bowel control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - count how long seizures last, how many, and how long between seizures if there are multiple - take to vet immediately if the cat or kitten has multiple seizures or is not coming out of seizure after a minute or two - phone for advice if cat or kitten only has one or two seizures lasting only a minute or two and now appears normal
<p>TEMPERATURE</p> <p>HIGH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feels hot • lethargic/slow <p>LOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feels cold • lethargic/slow 	<p>HIGH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - may not mean anything or may indicate a fever - if lethargic and not eating take to vet immediately - if otherwise bright, active and eating seek advice from the Centre during opening hours <p>LOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - use a heat pad on low; cover with a towel and place in carrier; give them room to move off the heating pad if they get too hot - use a blow drier on low; do not hold drier in any one place for more than a second, keep it moving otherwise you can burn them - wrap kitten in towel that has been heated in drier or place directly on skin and cover with a warm towel - use latex glove filled with warm (not hot) water and use as a hot water bottle - take note of any changes in demeanor and seek medical advice if required

SYMPTOMS	COURSE OF ACTION
PAIN / CRYING OUT CONT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has there been an accidental injury • are there any bleeding wounds or sores, lumps or bumps? • are they constipated? • are they urinating? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if straining to go to the toilet try to assess if struggling to urinate or defecate; this may be difficult. Consider what has been seen in the litter tray that day - UNABLE TO URINATE is a medical emergency, contact the vet immediately
NOT EATING WELL, NO SIGNS OF ILLNESS UNWELL, WITH OR WITHOUT OTHER SIGNS OF ILLNESS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • only eating soft food • drooling? • vomiting? • diarrhoea? • lethargic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - warm wet food up (add warm boiled water to food) or warm gently in microwave for a few seconds (stir and check food temperature before offering to cat or kitten) - If only eating dry food try chicken only variety wet food either Hills or Frisky Feast - seek advice if kittens have refused food for 4 – 6 hours, or cats have refused food for more than 12 – 24 hours - Seek veterinary advice
CAT FLU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sneezing • ear and nose discharge • bright/eating vs lethargic/anorexic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - clean eyes and nose gently with a soft moist cloth or cotton balls. Use a separate cloth /ball for each eye and nose to reduce cross contamination - feed warm wet food - try to humidify the air (turn on hot shower and place kitty in a carrier in the bathroom safely away from the hot water) - if lethargic and having trouble breathing contact vet immediately

SYMPTOMS	COURSE OF ACTION
<p>WOUNDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bleeding? • pus oozing? • painful? • how long has it been there? • lethargic? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - keep wounds clean; can use saline and cotton ball or pad - if minor and cat/kitten is bright, eating and there is minimal bleeding then call the Centre for an appointment during opening hours - if not sure of course of action call for advice - if bleeding profusely, cover wound, apply pressure if possible and take to vet as soon as possible
<p>KITTENS NOT NURSING FROM QUEEN (MOTHER)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is mum stressed or uncomfortable? • are mammary glands swollen, red and hot? • are kittens active enough to latch on? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - place mum and kittens in crate or large carrier in a quiet/dark area - friendly mum – may appreciate a pat or a soothing voice - if possible examine mammary glands and contact vet if you have any concerns or if glands are hot, red and shiny - try to help kittens latch on - if kittens are bright and trying to latch on contact vet - feral mums will prefer to be left alone with kittens in crate or large carrier in a quiet/dark area - try not to disturb mums with kittens but keep an eye on them to make sure they are nursing and kittens are content i.e. sleeping well and not crying out - if kittens have not fed in 4-6 hours they will need to be fed kittens formula via a bottle and teat. These are available from the Centre or (AHVEC afterhours) - we recommend womberoo kitten formula (or divetelac as a second choice). Follow instructions when making up formula and pay attention to hygiene (wash bottles and teats thoroughly after use)