



Facts About Feline Upper Respiratory Infection (URI)

Feline URI is similar to the common cold in humans. It's caused by a virus, and stressful environments and situations factor in as well. With supportive care and rest in a quiet, calm place like a loving home, most cases resolve in 7-14 days.



Signs of URI

- Sneezing
- Runny nose or nasal congestion
- Red, swollen or runny eyes or squinting
- Coughing or hard swallowing
- Sores (ulcers) on the tongue, lips, nose or roof of mouth
- Fever, lack of appetite, hiding and/or decreased energy

URI Treatment Plan

Just like with humans, viral infections aren't cured by antibiotics, even though they might be used for bacterial infections. A cat with URI should be separated from other cats in the household and put in a quiet space where he can recover in a low-stress setting. The cat can gradually be introduced to people and other animals in the household once he's recovered.

In-Home Care for URI

- A low-stress room is necessary for the cat to rest, acclimate and recover
- Make sure the cat is eating (when cats get stuffy noses, they can't smell their food well) so offer canned food, warmed gently in the microwave to stimulate appetite
- Gently clean discharge from nose and eyes with a warm moist cloth at least once daily
- Administer any prescribed medications as directed by the shelter
- Use a humidifier or place your cat in a steamy bathroom for 10-15 minutes several times a day

NOTE: ALWAYS wash hands after handling sick cats.

When to Call Pocatello Animal Shelter

Contact Pocatello Animal Shelter (208-234-6156) if your cat has any of the following signs:

- Not eating for more than 24 hours
- Green, yellow or bloody discharge from the nose
- Difficulty breathing, especially panting or breathing through an open mouth
- Depressed or unresponsive
- Vomiting or diarrhea that lasts more than 24 hours
- Little or no improvement after a week of home care

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Some of this information provided courtesy of Dr. Stacy Cannon, Nashville Metro Animal Care and Control.