Young Cat Foster Triage

PURPOSE

This document defines the policy and procedures for properly triaging young cats in foster care.

If at any time you feel your cat is having an emergency, please call the emergency clinic line at __________

SCOPE

This policy applies to all APA! fosters & clinic staff responsible for caring for and responding to medical concerns for young cats in foster care.

POLICY

- In case of obvious emergency, call the clinic immediately at ________.
- Walk in appointments are only accepted if the clinic has determined that it is medically necessary for the cat. Non-emergency walk-ins will be presented with options for future illness appointments. They will not be admitted to the clinic immediately.
- The clinic will not make appointments for wellness purposes. Wellness clinic days will be held on a recurring basis. Refer to wellness correspondence or to your APA! foster representative for more information.

APPOINTMENT KEY

- Tier 1: Come to clinic for walk-in appointment
- Tier 2: Schedule an appointment within 1 day
- Tier 3: Schedule an appointment
- Clinic Discretion: Vet or tech to instruct on next steps

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Young Cat Foster Triage Contents

PURPOSE ........................................................................................................................................... 1
SCOPE .................................................................................................................................................. 1
POLICY.................................................................................................................................................. 1
APPOINTMENT KEY ............................................................................................................................. 1
PROCEDURES ........................................................................................................................................ 3
  1.0 Not Eating .................................................................................................................................... 3
  2.0 Vomiting ....................................................................................................................................... 4
  3.0 Diarrhea ....................................................................................................................................... 5
  4.0 Abnormal Breathing .................................................................................................................... 6
  5.0 Severe Congestion ......................................................................................................................... 7
  6.0 Losing Weight ............................................................................................................................... 8
  7.0 Eye Issues .................................................................................................................................... 9
  8.0 Limping ....................................................................................................................................... 10
  9.0 Seizures ..................................................................................................................................... 11
 10.0 Ataxia (stumbling, swaying, drowsy, etc.) .................................................................................. 12
 11.0 Lethargic ................................................................................................................................... 13
 12.0 Straining in the box .................................................................................................................... 14
 13.0 Fever ......................................................................................................................................... 15
 14.0 Ear Issues ................................................................................................................................... 16
 15.0 Skin Issues ................................................................................................................................ 17
 16.0 Dental Issues .............................................................................................................................. 18
PROCEDURES

1.0 Not Eating

- My kitten is not eating
  - When was the last time it ate?
    - <12 hours ago?
      - Offer a buffet, force feed, & monitor
    - >12-24 hours ago?
      - Force feed

Schedule an appointment within 3 days
2.0 Vomiting

My kitten is vomiting

Has it vomited 2 times or more within the last 12 hours?

Yes

Is it eating?

No

Force Feed

*Schedules an appointment within 1 day

Yes

Monitor

*Schedules an appointment within 1 day

No

Schedule an appointment

Yes

Is it otherwise normal?

No

Schedule an appointment

Is it otherwise normal?

Yes

Monitor

*Schedules an appointment within 1 day

No

Schedule an appointment

* Schedule an appointment within 1 day
3.0 Diarrhea

My kitten has diarrhea

Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps
4.0 Abnormal Breathing

My kitten has breathing issues

Is it Open Mouth Breathing?

Is it Coughing?

Is it Breathing Abnormally?

Is it congested or does it have a fever?

Yes

Is it currently being treated for URI?

Yes

Nebulize

No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

No

Call the clinic and send a video of the symptoms.

Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps

Schedule an appointment within 1 day
5.0 Severe Congestion

*URI symptoms:
- Sneezing
- Congestion
- Cough
- Clear to colored nasal discharge
- Gagging, drooling
- Fever
- Decreased appetite
- Nasal and oral ulcers
- Squinting or rubbing eyes
6.0 Losing Weight

- My kitten is losing weight
  - Is it otherwise normal?
    - Yes: Is the cat eating & finishing its food?
      - Yes: Offer more food & monitor
      - No: Increase access to wet food, buffet
        - Schedule an appointment
    - No: Follow the triage flow of other symptoms
7.0 Eye Issues

*URI symptoms:
- Sneezing
- Congestion
- Cough
- Clear to colored nasal discharge
- Gagging, drooling
- Fever
- Decreased appetite
- Nasal and oral ulcers
- Squinting or rubbing eyes
8.0 Limping

My kitten is limping

Have there been signs of pain and has it lasted for more than 3-4 hours?

Yes

No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Monitor
9.0 Seizures

My kitten is having seizures

Give Sugar Water

Are they less than 1 minute in duration?

Monitor for additional seizures

Are they taking longer than 15 minutes to recover?

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Are they longer than 1 minute in duration?

Document the duration and frequency

Has it had 3 or more within the any 15 minute period?

Come to clinic for walk-in appointment

Is it non-responsive?
10.0 Ataxia (stumbling, swaying, drowsy, etc.)

- My kitten is stumbling, tipping over, or swaying.
  - Offer sugar water.
  - Has it eaten within the last 12 hours?
    - Yes
      - Is it on meds or does it have a known illness?
        - Yes
          - Schedule an appointment within 1 day.
        - No
          - Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps.
    - No
      - Force Feed (Provide Instructions).
      - Schedule an appointment within 1 day.

- My kitten is excessively drowsy or in a stupor.
  - Schedule an appointment within 1 day.
11.0 Lethargic

My kitten is lethargic.

Is it otherwise normal with no signs of fever?

Yes

No

Monitor for 24 hours

Have the symptoms continued?

Yes

No

Schedule an appointment

Is it on medics or does it have a known illness?

Yes

No

Is it Eating?

Yes

No

Contact the director of the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps.

Monitor for 24 hours

Have the symptoms continued?

Yes

No

Force Feed

Follow the Fading Kitten Protocol

Schedule an appointment within 5 days

Resolved
13.0 Fever

My kitten has a fever

Can you take the temperature?

No

Is it otherwise normal?

Yes

No

Continue to monitor

Follow the triage flow of the other symptoms

Confirmed Fever?

Yes

No

Follow the Foster Fever Protocol

Continue to monitor

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

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14.0 Ear Issues

My kitten has itchy ears, red ears, discharge, debris, head tilt, or is shaking its head.

Schedule an appointment.
15.0 Skin Issues

My kitten has skin issues

Send Photo

Does it present as classic ringworm?

Yes

No

Direct to the Ringworm Ward

Is it experiencing itchiness & hair loss?

Yes

No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Is it experiencing hair loss only?

Yes

No

Schedule an appointment

Is it at the site of a spay inclusion?

Yes

No

Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps
16.0 Dental Issues

- My kitten has some dental problems
  - Is it chewing strangely or having difficulty eating?
  - Is it drooling or does it have bloody drool?
  - Does it have red or swollen gums?
  - Does it have broken teeth?
  - Does it have a stinky mouth?

- Does it have known dental issues?
  - Yes
    - Contact the clinic for the vet or tech to instruct on next steps
  - No
    - Is it eating enough?
      - Yes
        - Schedule an appointment
      - No
        - Force feed & offer a buffet
          - Has it continued to not eating for longer than 48 hours?
            - Yes
              - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
            - No
              - Schedule an appointment