PURPOSE

This document defines the policy and procedures for properly triaging adult 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 adult 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
Tier TBD: Vet or tech to instruct on next steps
# Adult Cat Foster Triage

## PURPOSE

Table of contents:

- 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
- 17.0 Trauma .................................................................. 19
1.0 Not Eating

- My cat is not eating
  - When was the last time it ate?
    - <24 hours ago?
      - Offer Buffett & Monitor
    - >24-48 hours ago?
      - Does it have any other symptoms?
        - Yes
          - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
        - No
          - Was the cat recently moved?
            - Yes
              - Call clinic to have meds prepared
              - Offer Buffett & Monitor
            - No
              - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
2.0 Vomiting

My cat is vomiting

Has it vomited 3 or more times within the last 12 hours?

Yes

Did it ingest something?

The substance is a known toxin

No

Is it otherwise normal?

Yes

Monitor

No

Schedule an appointment

Is it otherwise normal?

Yes

Monitor

No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Schedule an appointment

Did it ingest something?

The substance is a known toxin

Something Else?

Is it otherwise normal?

Yes

Monitor

No

Schedule an appointment

My cat is vomiting
3.0 Diarrhea

My cat has diarrhea

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

- My cat has breathing issues
  - Is it Open Mouth Breathing?
    - Yes
    - Is it currently being treated for URI?
      - Yes
      - Nebulize
      - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
    - No
      - No
      - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
  - No
    - Is it Coughing?
      - Yes
      - Call the clinic and send a video of the symptoms.
    - No
      - Is it Breathing Abnormally?
        - Yes
        - Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps
        - No
          - No
          - Is it congested or does it have a fever?
            - Yes
            - No
5.0 Severe Congestion

My cat has severe congestion or *signs of upper respiratory infection

Open Mouth Breathing?

Yes

Follow the Breathing Triage Flow

No

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

*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 cat is losing weight.

Is the cat eating & finishing its food?

Yes
Offer more food & monitor

No
Schedule an appointment
7.0 Eye Issues

My cat has eye issues

Does the cat currently have a URI or *Symptoms of URI?

Yes

Follow the Clinic URI Protocol

No

Call the clinic and provide a picture

Can you see the eyeball/cornea?

Yes

Schedule an appointment

No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Pick Up meds if determined by Clinic

*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 cat is limping

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

Yes

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

No

Monitor
9.0 Seizures

My cat is having seizures

Give Sugar Water

Are they less than 1 minute in duration?

Monitor for additional seizures

Document the duration and frequency

Are they longer than 1 minute in duration?

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

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

Come to clinic for walk-in appointment

Are they taking longer than 15 minutes to recover?

Are they non-responsive?

Schedule an appointment
10.0 Ataxia (stumbling, swaying, drowsy, etc.)

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

  - Is it otherwise Normal?
    - Yes
      - Monitor for 24 hours
      - Have the symptoms continued?
        - Yes
          - Schedule an appointment
        - No
          - Monitor for 24 hours
          - Continued symptoms?
            - Yes
              - Schedule an appointment
            - No
              - Give Sugar Water
              - Does it have fever?
                - Yes
                  - Schedule an appointment
                - No
                  - Not Eating Triage Flow
12.0 Straining in the box

My cat is straining in the box

Has it produced a normal amount of urine in the last 24 hours?

Yes

Is the urine abnormal in any other way?

No

Has it produced a bowel movement in the last 24 hours?

Yes

Fecal Score?

6 or 7

Diarrhea Protocol

Schedule an appointment

1

Yes

Schedule an appointment

No

Give wet food

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

No

Collect sample & bring for urinalysis within 24 hours

Yes

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

Male or Female?

Male

Male or Female?

Female

Contact the clinic for walk-in appointment

Schedule an appointment within 1 day
13.0  Fever

My cat 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
14.0 Ear Issues

My cat 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 & hairloss?
Yes
No

Schedule an appointment within 1 day

Is it experiencing hairloss only?
Yes
No

Schedule an appointment

Continue to monitor

Is it at the site of a spay incision?
Contact the clinic for the Vet or tech to instruct on next steps
16.0 Dental Issues

- My cat 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 Buffet
          - Has it continued to not eating for longer than 48 hours?
            - Yes
              - Schedule an appointment within 1 day
            - No
              - Schedule an appointment
17.0 Trauma

My cat experienced trauma.

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