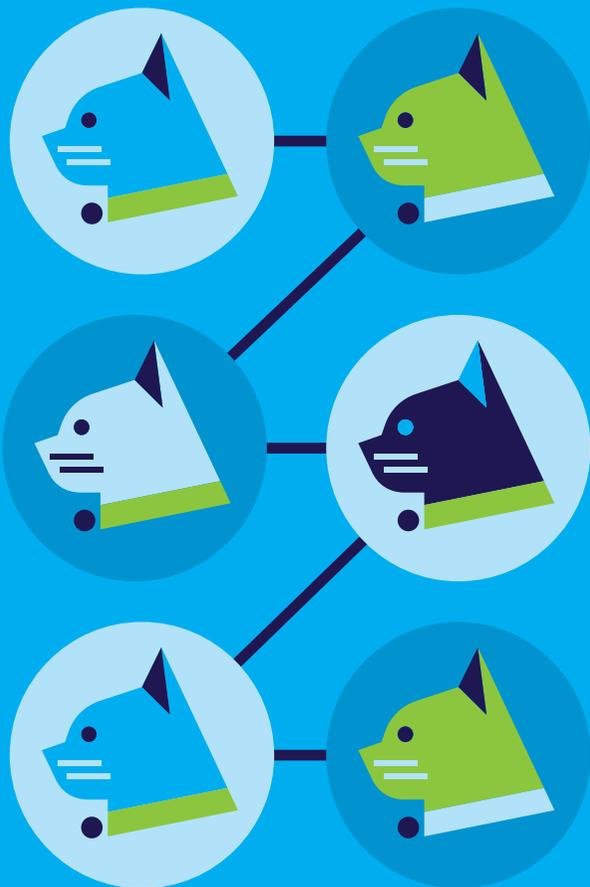


## How it spreads

Cat flu is generally spread by direct contact between cats, through saliva, tears or nasal discharge.

It can also be spread indirectly, via food bowls, bedding, litter trays or human hands.



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Victoria

# Cat Flu



Cat flu is a serious disease that passes easily between cats of all ages.

## Symptoms

- sneezing
- discharge from the eyes or nose
- fever
- breathing problems
- coughing
- fatigue
- loss of appetite

Cats can also develop ulcers on the mouth or eyes. If the condition becomes severe and is not treated, it can cause permanent eye damage, pneumonia or even death. Kittens and older cats are the worst affected due to lower immunity.

## If you suspect your cat has cat flu

1. Call your vet.
2. Any cats who are sick with cat flu must be isolated from other cats until they are fully recovered. Their food bowls, litter trays and bedding must also be washed separately.
3. Contaminated surfaces can be cleaned with veterinary grade disinfectants (e.g. F10) or diluted household bleach (1 part bleach to 30 parts water). Both options should be left on hard surfaces for 10-15 minutes. Disinfected surfaces should then be rinsed or wiped clean so that the residue does not cause any issues for pets. Any potentially contaminated soft materials should be thrown out.
4. If you live in a multi-pet household, we recommend feeding and handling unwell pets last and to be mindful of cross contamination.

## Prevention

It is vital that all kittens are vaccinated by a veterinarian against the viruses that cause cat flu. Vaccination courses should start at 8 weeks of age, and booster vaccinations should be given as often as recommended by a veterinarian.

Kittens need to be kept indoors and away from other cats until they are fully protected. Vaccination can prevent disease or reduce the severity of symptoms in those cats who become ill.

## Treatment

Cat flu is caused by viruses and there is no direct cure.

Treatment for cat flu aims to make the cat more comfortable until the immune system can clear the infection. Supportive treatment can include pain medication, anti-viral medication, eye drops and antibiotics for any secondary bacterial infection.

Some cats need to be hospitalised and placed on an intravenous drip or given nutritional support if they stop eating and drinking. Recovery typically takes around two weeks.

If you suspect your cat has cat flu, seek veterinary advice.



### Step 1

Seek vet help



### Step 2

Isolate infected cats



### Step 3

Bleach and scrub surfaces