



# Love them for life

## MANAGEMENT OF DIARRHOEA IN KITTENS

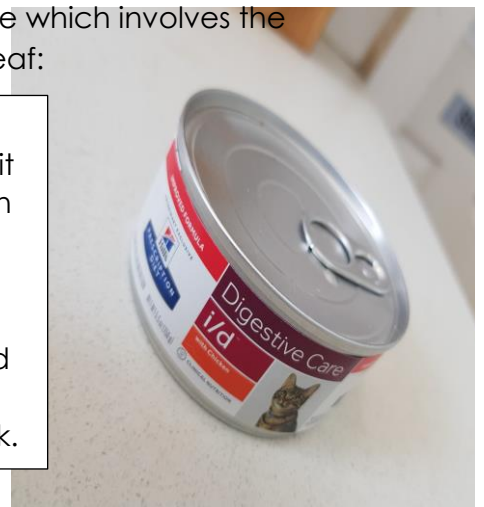
Diarrhoea does not go away on its own. It must be managed and should be carefully monitored, often needing veterinary analysis of a faecal sample and treatment. Diarrhoea is triggered from one or more of a number of causes. In a kitten, these causes are commonly:

- Sudden changes of diet; or
- Food intolerance; or
- Eating something toxic to a cat (raisons, chocolate, alcohol, lilly etc);
- Eating foods that have spoiled (kitten food spoils quickly in summer);
- The need to deworm the kitten; or
- The need to treat for other parasite infection (eg cocidea); or
- Common treatable bacterial infection; or
- Viral disease (eg Corona Virus or Feline Parvo Virus); or
- Other underlying medical condition.

If diarrhoea occurs **with vomiting** such that the kitten can't keep down his or her food, it should be considered a **medical emergency** and your vet should be consulted immediately. This gastroenteritis can make your kitten lethargic and miserable. Whatever the cause, the illness **can take time** to diagnose, treat and for the digestive system to normalise. Thus, it is important **not to delay** getting advice, detecting the cause and initiating treatment and support.

In most cases the kitten will have an upset which is treatable which involves the following first aid steps, the detail of which is outlined overleaf:

- Stop feeding wet food and cat milk
- Seek advice from WLPAs/send a photo of faeces / vomit
- Video text the kitten if lethargic to show body condition
- Deworm if advised and if due
- Hydrate using a syringe of cooled boiled water
- Collect a sample of faeces for the vet to examine
- Support kitten with rest, syringe feeding bland food and water and leave kitten with dry food and finely chopped chicken if you leave the kitten to attend work.



## 1. DEWORM

Ensure the kitten is eating and is otherwise healthy before you de-worm with de-worming medicine. Administer the correct dose for the body weight of your kitten.

## 2. AND HYDRATE

Hydrate using a syringe by giving the kitten around 20 mls of cool boiled water to drink. To improve hydration, you can add liquid lactade. This trebles the amount of hydration without trebling the volume the kitten must drink. Never syringe milks.

## 3. AND FEED COOKED CHICKEN AND **SYRINGE ID FOOD** OR COMBINE BOTH

Chicken is a bland food that helps bind the poo and stop loss of fluids from the body. The volume of food put back into the body must be that volume excreted plus what the kitten needs to grow and develop. Weight loss is rapid with the onset of diarrhoea and is life threatening especially in kittens under 12 weeks. You must feed by syringe if the kitten is not eating him or herself. You should feed small portions on the hour (20-30 mls), every hour so your kitten is getting adequate nutrition.

If next day the faeces is not more solid.... Then

## 4. AND CONSULT YOUR SUPPORT PERSON/VET FOR BAYCOX + COLLECT A SAMPLE FOR SAME-DAY TESTING (WITHOUT LITTER ON IT)

## 5. REPEAT BAYCOX AT .4 ML PER KILO FOR UP TO 3 DAYS WHILE AWAITING SAMPLE RESULTS

TREAT FOR SPECIFIC PATHOGEN IF SHOWN IN SAMPLE UNDER CLOSE VET INSTRUCTION. WHEN RESOLVED, REMEMBER TO KEEP DEWORMED FOR LIFE

**The rapid onset of diarrhoea and vomiting in a previously healthy kitten can be a sign of the deadly feline parvo virus. This is detected using an inexpensive dog parvo virus faecal probe and if confirmed and treated early with anti-vomiting medicine, a drip and oral hydration, your vaccinated cat can be saved.**

