

Fractious/Feral/Barn Cat Treatment Protocols

These medical protocols are designed for cats who cannot be handled for traditional medical care. At all times, Feral Cat Handling Protocol applies and you should seek assistance from the Cat MOD if you feel you're unable to administer these treatments safely and humanely.

URI

Level 1 URI: if in outdoor enclosure, do not bring cat inside. Monitor outside and update symptoms daily. If URI not improved within 3 days, or worsens, escalate to Level 2 protocols. If inside, doxycycline at normal dose given in smelly wet food. If cat will not eat the doxycycline in food, administer orally.

Level 2 URI: if cat is in outdoor enclosure, bring cat inside. Azithromycin in normal dosage given orally. If azithromycin cannot be given orally, escalate to Level 3 treatment.

Level 3 URI: Enrofloxacin Injectable at 5mg/kg in SQ fluids at 10ml/lb SID for 5-7 days. Simultaneously while giving SQ fluids, administer 0.25 B12 SQ, once. If not eating, see Anorexia Treatment, below.

L-Lysine is never to be given.

Because Convenia does not effectively treat URI and the above methods are successful it should not be used. Under 1% of feral cats at APA receive Convenia for URI as a last resort only.

Ophthalmologic Issues

Due to stress upon the cat, eye medications will only be prescribed to these cats if loss of vision or pain requires treatment. Eye medications are not typically prescribed in uncomplicated cases of conjunctivitis.

Use an ointment versus drops for ease of application. Using a long q-tip applicator, apply ointment to the eye/s as directed. In serious cases, a cat may be sedated for thorough eye exam and application of eye medication. DVM should consider using high tier ointments in these cases since repeat applications are not realistic.

Diarrhea

Group Housed Barn Cats in Outdoor Enclosure: 2ml Panacur per 10lb of cat SID for 3 days.

Individually housed cats: Traditional Diarrhea Treatment Protocol given orally. If cannot be given orally, add to wet, stinky foods. If cat will not eat medications in food, administer Revolution or Bravecto topically, consider Pen G. injectable (0.1ml per lb, SQ, SID for 3-5 days), Praziquantel Injectable. Do not underestimate the possibility that diarrhea may be stress induced. Rx diets are not typically appropriate for barn cats.

Calici

Follow Calici Treatment Protocol per normal if medications can be administered orally.

If medications cannot be administered orally, Enrofloxacin Injectable at 5mg/kg in SQ fluids at 10ml/lb SID. Simultaneously while giving SQ fluids, administer 0.25 B12 SQ, once. If not eating, see Anorexia Treatment below.

Convenia may be warranted if cat is not handleable for daily SQ enrofloxacin.

Anorexia

Follow Hunger Strike Protocol with food offerings.

If cat is anorexic but otherwise healthy, move to Feral ISO enclosure to see if cat will eat with reduced stress. Monitor eating closely.

If cat is healthy and cannot be moved outside, add another feral cat to the enclosure to reduce stress. Monitor eating closely.

If cat cannot be put outside, co-housed, and/or is still not eating, administer mirtazapine orally per normal. If cat cannot be medicated orally, mirtazapine transdermal is a choice if available, and/or Diazepam injectable (0.05mg/kg - 0.15mg/kg) IM SID with DVM approval.

Syringe feed if not eating within 24 hours. For information on how to syringe feed, see Feral Cat Handling Protocol.

In all cases, SQ fluids are warranted at 10ml/lb SID. Add 0.25 Vitamin B12 to the fluids, once.

Trauma

All cases of trauma are medically handled in much the same fashion for all cats, regardless of behavior. Fractious cats may need sedation, including daily sedation, for catheter placement, bandage changes, rechecks. Convenia is warranted in trauma cases with soft tissue injury.

In cases of broken limbs or bone injury, DVM should consider if it is in cat's best interest to amputate and have quick recovery and release to field, or if the treatment warrants weeks of confinement and stress. If in question, clinic should confer with Cat MOD as to cat's ultimate placement and outcome and proceed with the best option for the individual cat.

ADR / Unknown

Treatments to Consider:

Convenia - almost never for URI, ineffective and expensive. Appropriate for skin, soft tissue injury, UTI, trauma, abscesses. Not for use in pregnant or nursing cats.

Enrofloxacin Injectable - appropriate for serious illness or injury where other antibiotics are not indicated or have failed to resolve the infection. Warranted for Level 3 URI, worsening calicivirus, serious unknown illness, when the cat may die without aggressive intervention.

Clindamycin injectable - oral infections, dental disease, bone infection, toxoplasmosis, some sepsis, some staph infections.

Vitamin B12 - 0.25ml in SQ fluids, once per week.

Ringworm

Ringworm is not treated in the barn cat population. No quarantine or restrictions apply for barn cats with ringworm.

Scabies

Revolution, two doses fourteen days apart. On the second dose, if cat appears markedly improved, cat may be released/adopted.

Panleukopenia

Medications follow the same panleuk protocol with DVM determining if modifications need to be made to ensure medication delivery. Feral cats in the Panleuk Ward are not weighed daily. Syringe feeding will be performed with assistance from Cat MOD if needed. In many cases it may be easier and less stressful on the cat to sedate once for IV catheter placement and treatment via IV extension.