

# What Cat Owners Should Know About Virulent Systemic Feline Calicivirus (VS-FCV)



## 1. It can be FATAL

VS-FCV is a relatively new, more deadly strain of the traditional feline Calicivirus (ka-LEE-see-virus), one of the two major respiratory viruses typically found in cats. This new strain is more severe; VS-FCV can affect multiple organs and cause painful and devastating signs. VS-FCV can kill healthy cats within 24 to 48 hours - even those previously vaccinated with a traditional FCV vaccine.

## 2. It's highly CONTAGIOUS

*"A person could touch an infected cat, touch a door, and pass the disease on to the next person who touches the doorknob and handles a different cat."* – Gary D. Norsworthy, DVM, DABVP

**VS-FCV is easily transmitted from cat to cat through anything shed by the cat, including hair, dander, blood, urine, feces and secretions from the eyes and nose. The disease can also be spread via objects such as clothing, tables, doorknobs, shoes and hands.**

## 3. Your cat CAN be PROTECTED

CaliciVax, the only vaccine licensed and proven effective against VS-FCV, is now available. CaliciVax contains a VS-FCV strain and a traditional Calicivirus strain, providing broader protection for your cat.

**\*Vaccination against VS-FCV could save your cat's life.\***

### *Signs to watch for:*

#### *Clinical signs of traditional FCV:*

- *Runny nose*
- *Sneezing*
- *Conjunctivitis*
- *Ulcers on tongue*
- *Loss of appetite*

#### *Clinical signs of VS-FCV*

- *Any of the above PLUS:*
- *High fever*
- *Swelling of face and/or legs*
- *More severe oral and nasal ulcers*
- *Loss of organ function*
- *Skin lesions and hair loss*

## Frequently Asked Questions about VS-FCV

### **Q: Is my cat at risk?**

**A:** Since its identification in Northern California in 1998, VS-FCV has been reported in clinics and shelters from coast to coast. Harford County and Basin Run Animal Hospital have documented cases.

Cats in multiple-cat households are at increased risk because of the ease of transmission

### **Q: If my cat becomes infected, how long before I see signs?**

**A:** You'll typically see signs one to five days after exposure. In some cases, however, it has taken as long as 12 days.

### **Q: How can I protect my cat against this disease?**

**A:** By vaccinating your cat with CaliciVax, the only vaccine licensed and proven effective against VS-FCV and FCV.

### **Q: Is the vaccine safe?**

**A:** Yes. CaliciVax vaccines were proven safe in a safety study of more than 700 client-owned cats.

### **Q: How often should my cat be vaccinated?**

**A:** Your cat will receive an initial vaccination **followed by a booster 3-4 weeks later**. The product label indicates your cat should be re-vaccinated on an annual basis.

### **Q: My cat has already been vaccinated against FCV, do I need to revaccinate?**

**A:** Yes. VS-FCV can kill healthy cats, even those previously vaccinated with a traditional FCV vaccine. CaliciVax is the only vaccine licensed and proven effective against VS-FCV and it also protects against traditional FCV.

### **Q: Am I at risk of contracting this disease?**

**A:** While VS-FCV does not affect humans, you can carry the disease on items such as shoes, clothing, and hands, which may put other cats at risk.