



## Cat Flu

The two main feline flu bugs are Calici Virus and Herpes Virus. Cats with the flu typically have runny eyes, snotty noses, sneezing and a temperature. Affected cats and kittens often become lethargic, may go off their food and can get dehydrated.

Cat flu is best treated as soon as possible. Antibiotics are often used to control secondary infections and eye ointment can help to resolve sore runny eyes. Sometimes intravenous or subcut fluids are needed to rehydrate your cat.

Cats are reluctant to eat if they cannot smell their food. A good trick to help clear runny noses is to put your cat in the bathroom while the shower is on – the steam will help to relieve nasal discharge. Feeding soft heated food will also help to increase the appetite.

Cat flu is extremely contagious. It is therefore important cats with the flu are isolated from other cats – especially immunosuppressed (young/elderly/sick) or unvaccinated cats.

Vaccination helps to prevent cat flu. The Calici and Herpes virus are part of the core cat vaccine. Just like the human flu vaccine, vaccination will not guarantee 100% protection against the cat flu. Vaccination will however give some immunity against the flu and even if your cat still catches the flu, it is unlikely to be as severely affected as unvaccinated animals.

Carrier cats – about 80% of cats that become infected with the Herpes virus will never completely clear the virus from their system after infection and will become lifelong carrier cats. During periods of stress (e.g. going to cattery) they shed virus and can have flare ups of the flu as well as passing the bug to other cats. Cats in-



## Case of the Month – Digit

Digit is a very lovable black and white 8 year old cat. He came in after hours after being hit by a car late one night. Digit had extensive injuries to his face and one of his back legs. The top of his mouth had been split open and his jaw was cracked in half. He had wounds over his neck and a broken hock (ankle joint).

Digit's owner was very committed and wanted us to do all we could to help Digit get better. Given the extent of his injuries he had a long road to recovery. Digit was dosed up with pain relief and antibiotic medication and the next day we took xrays and repaired his face. The xrays showed Digit had a complicated fracture through one of his hock joints. We wired and stitched the gap in the top of his mouth back together and wired his broken jaw together. The wounds on his neck were stitched up. We also placed a feeding tube in so that we could by pass Digit's mouth for the next few weeks to give it a chance to heal. Every thing came together well except his teeth did not perfectly line up no matter what we did. Later in the week Digit had a second operation to amputate his broken leg.

Over the next few weeks Digit was cared for at home and at the clinic while his body was recovering. He had to be fed and medicated through his feeding tube 3 times a day. Digit adapted very quickly to life on 3 legs and was getting himself around within a few days of the amputation. After 3 weeks his mouth had healed well although his teeth were still out of line. Digit was very eager to eat for himself again and since the hole in the roof of his mouth had healed so well we removed his feeding tube.

Digit is managing to eat, drink and groom himself although he has been a bit messy and slobbery as his teeth are not lined up. We have just extracted 2 of his teeth to help his mouth close better and removed the wire

## Cat & Dog Body Language

### CURIOUS



Ears perked up and forward pointing, tail up, & wagging.



Tail and head held high with ears upright.



### STRESSED



Eyes dilated, Ears alert and rotated, tail wrapped around body.



Ears back down, body and forwards,

tucked away.

and tense hunched tail



Ears back, tail hangs straight down, teeth exposed.

### AGGRESSIVE



## Missing Animals

Its heart breaking when your beloved pet goes missing. Here are some tips to help you reunite:

### Trademe

You can list your missing pet for free and post photos.

[www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz)

### Pets on the Net



Another great website for reuniting pets and their owners, also free, gives helpful information to help you find your pet.

[www.petsonthenet.co.nz](http://www.petsonthenet.co.nz)

### SPCA

Visit to see if your pet has turned up and give them a photo and description of your missing animal.

### Vet Clinics

Most clinics have notice boards and are happy to put up a poster of your lost pet. We also keep a record of all pets lost and found.

### Radio

### Newspapers



**Flyers**—local dairies, neighbours.



**KENNINGTON CLINIC** 11 CLAPHAM ROAD, (03) 230 4689  
**EDENDALE CLINIC** 14 SWEENEY STREET, (03) 206 6170

