



Elizabeth Eilers, DVM
Cat Clinic of Greensboro

Elizabeth Eilers is a Greensboro native and a 1999 graduate of NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine. She has been at the Cat Clinic since 2003 and became the owner in 2010. Before moving back to Greensboro, Dr. Eilers practiced small animal and emergency medicine in Wilmington, NC and Southern California. She enjoys getting to know her patients and their owners, and loves the challenge and fun of feline medicine. She

and her husband Pat enjoy riding their bikes on the trails, and just about any sport on the water. They share their home with a minnow-hunting dog named Tsali and a lovable cat named Chuck Norris.

Other factors that can play a role in chronic congestion include polyps, neoplasia, foreign bodies such as grass or plant material, fungal infection, allergies, and dental disease.

What diagnostics are recommended for chronic rhinitis kitties?

Viral rhinitis is a diagnosis of exclusion, which means that we must rule out other causes of congestion before assuming that viral disease is the sole reason for the congestion. Labwork (including feline leukemia and FIV testing), blood pressure, and imaging such as rhinoscopy and CT/MRI may be indicated. Biopsy and cultures may be obtained during rhinoscopy.

What are the treatment options?

Antibiotics and I-Lysine are usually first-line treatment options. Antivirals (such as famciclovir or interferon), antihistamines, and anti-inflammatories may be used. Probiotics and other supplements that support the immune system can be helpful as well. Environmental control of allergens and irritants, use of humidifiers, and using cat litter that produces less dust can help to alleviate secondary inflammation.

Use of intranasal vaccines of FVRC has shown promise in helping some of the more chronic cases. An initial dose is given directly in the nostrils and repeated in 3-4 weeks. The vaccine can be repeated 3 times a year if initial response is positive. If congestion is severe, pretreatment with antibiotics first to help reduce congestion is recommended.

Unfortunately, there is no magic bullet to treat this condition and recurrent issues can be frustrating for pet owners. Most cats, however, seem to manage happy lives despite dealing with recurrent congestion.

CHRONIC RHINITIS IN CATS

Does your cat have chronic snuffles?

If your cat suffers from recurrent or persistent congestion with sneezing and nasal discharge, your cat may likely have chronic rhinitis. These cats are also referred to as “Chronic Snorkelers” or “Chronic Snufflers”.

Will my cat ever stop sneezing?

This can depend on the cause of the rhinitis, the age of exposure and the amount of virus your cat was exposed to. It is estimated that over 85% of all cats have been exposed to the viruses that cause upper respiratory infections. Most of them respond to initial treatment and can clear the disease but many go on to develop chronic changes that can affect them throughout their lives.

What are the causes of chronic congestion?

The disease itself stems from exposure to viruses such as Feline Herpes Virus (FHV) and Calicivirus (FCV), which damage the nasal turbinates, thus keeping the nose from being able to function as it should in clearing normal environmental contaminants. While much of the congestion is due to inflammation, secondary bacterial infections are common sequelae and many times, antibiotics are needed to help.

545-3390
2449 Battleground Avenue
www.catclinicofgreensboro.com
Follow us on Facebook 
See ad on page 11.