



Why Are the Kitties Sneezing?

Many cats and kittens catch a cold while they're in a shelter. Cold viruses are extremely common in cats, and just like kids at school, cats pass them around.

The good news is that—just like you and me—when a cat has a cold, he'll usually get over it in a few days with no treatment. Some cats sneeze a little; others develop a worse cold and become depressed, run a fever, and even quit eating for a few days before they get well. Occasionally, cats develop bacterial infections and will get nasty runny noses—which can be a little gross, but can usually be taken care of with antibiotics.

We make every effort to keep our cats healthy and free from disease. We test them for the feline leukemia and feline immunodeficiency viruses, and deworm and vaccinate them. We keep their environment as clean and stress-free as possible. Despite our best efforts, however, some cats develop colds in the shelter. This problem is not unique to our shelter—in fact, colds (also known as feline upper respiratory infections) represent the single largest infectious disease in shelters nationwide!

We do not believe a cat should be put down just because he or she has a cold. Instead, we try to nurse the cats through their sickness. We hope you understand and will help us care for these kitties—it would be a shame not to offer them for adoption simply because they have colds! Just as in people, kitty colds are not life-threatening. You can expect your new cat to make a full recovery.

For kitties with colds, the best medicine is rest, TLC, and time. Never give a cat Tylenol or other “people medicines”—they are toxic to cats. Keep runny noses and eyes clean. Feed your cat smelly, moist cat food—cats with a stuffy nose may not eat because they cannot smell. A moist food with a strong fishy smell often stimulates the appetite and is easy on sore throats.

If you have additional concerns or questions, we strongly encourage you to consult your veterinarian about cats and colds. Please do not let a cold stand between you and one of our wonderful cats!