**Tritrichomonas Foetus Diarrhoea - Information for owners.**

Tritrichomonas Foetus (T. foetus) is a type of intestinal parasite (protozoa) that can cause diarrhoea, mostly seen in young cats and kittens, the majority being under 12 months of age. Most of the affected cats come from rescue shelters and pedigree breeding colonies.

It mainly causes colitis (large bowel diarrhoea) resulting in increased frequency of defecation, semi-formed to liquid faeces, and sometimes fresh blood or mucous in the faeces.

Infected cats eventually overcome the infection, but it can be a slow process, some studies suggest 9 months- 2 years from onset. It appears that most infected cats continue to shed low levels of the organism in their faeces for many months after the resolution of the diarrhoea.

For this reason, we advise that affected cats go to homes with no other cats as there is a small risk of it spreading to other cats.

If no further diarrhoea episodes have occurred after 2 years, then it is less likely that it could be spread to other cats.

Diarrhoea usually resolves over time and is often more of an inconvenience than being associated with significant illness, it may not be necessary to treat all cats. We have treated these kittens that have needed it, before they were rehomed.

Very rare cases of *T. foetus* infection have been reported in immunosuppressed humans. As a precaution against infection, people in contact with infected cats are advised to take basic hygiene precautions to avoid ingesting the parasite.

In addition, there have also been reports of *T. foetus* infection in puppies.

For further information on *T. foetus*infection in cats, visit: [http://www.icatcare.org/](https://icatcare.org/)

Previously affected cats & kittens are rehomed with a 2-year temporary “part-foster” for this condition, so that, if in the instance it should recur in this time, we can cover the cost of treatment for it, at our designated foster vets.

Any further questions, please do ask the animal care team, or contact us.

Being or previously been treated for this condition may or may not affect your pet insurance. The rescue centre is not able to be responsible for what pet insurance companies will cover.