

Infectious Causes of Feline diarrhoea

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Feline diarrhoea can be a frustrating clinical problem and when developing a diagnostic plan, it is always advisable to consider whether all of the potential infectious causes have been ruled out. This is particularly important before undertaking more invasive diagnostic tests. There are a large number of infectious agents that could be present and a lack of highly sensitive means to detect these agents. The high prevalence of many of these "pathogens" in healthy animals will require clinical judgement to decide whether or not a given infectious agent is responsible for disease in each individual case.

It is important in a diagnostic plan for the diarrhoea to be categorised, if possible, into small or large bowel diarrhoea:-

| Clinical Sign | Small Bowel | Large Bowel |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Weight loss/polyphagia | + | - |
| Volume | + | - |
| Frequency | +/- | + |
| Melaena | + | - |
| Frank blood/mucus | - | + |
| Tenesmus | - | + |

Infectious causes of small or mixed bowel diarrhoea

FeLV, FIV, Ancylostoma, Toxocara, Toxascaris, Giardia, Isospora, Cryptosporidium, Salmonella, Campylobacter, E coli, Torovirus, Coronavirus, Parvovirus (Panleucopenia).

Infectious causes of large bowel diarrhoea:

Trichuris, FIP, Tritrichomonas foetus, Clostridium perfringens

Diagnostic plan

Complete physical evaluation, CBC and FeLV/FIV test, faecal wet mount (useful in practice), faecal flotation, Giardia antigen test, Tritrichomonas PCR, faecal cytology, faecal culture, Cryptosporidium testing.

If you require details of any of these tests/profiles available from Greendale Veterinary Diagnostics please ring.