

## Adopter Handout for FIP Survivor Cats

Thank you for choosing to adopt a cat that has been treated (or is currently undergoing treatment) for Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). Here's what you need to know to ensure a happy and healthy life for your new companion.

### What is Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)?

FIP is caused by feline coronavirus. COVID-19 is also caused by a coronavirus but the coronavirus causing FIP is not the same and only infects cats. Feline coronavirus is commonly found in the feces of cats and research has shown that infection is very common among cats. Thankfully, it usually causes mild diarrhea or no signs at all. However, in a small number of cats, the virus changes (mutates) inside the cat, and interacts with the cat's immune system in a certain way, resulting in FIP.

### Diagnosis and Treatment

FIP can be difficult to diagnose. At Best Friends Animal Society, we use a standardized shelter diagnostic protocol to identify and treat cases of FIP. Treatment is generally 84 days long. Doses of antiviral medications are determined based on what clinical signs are present and adjustments are made based on response to treatment.

### Timeline

- 84 days of treatment
- Bloodwork (CBC and Chemistry) every 6 weeks during treatment. A veterinary exam with blood work is performed 6 weeks after treatment is completed. The cat can be deemed in remission at this time.
- Cats that are stable and on GS-441524 or EIDD-2801 are available for foster or adoption.
  - o ***If you have adopted a cat currently receiving treatment, it is critical to confirm with your primary care veterinarian they are comfortable monitoring this disease and prescribing the necessary medications before taking them home***
- Cats can be vaccinated appropriately according to environment and risk.
- Spay and neuter can be performed with 4 weeks left in treatment if clinically stable.

### Relapse

- Relapse is uncommon (~3% for non-FeLV+ cats and ~7% for FeLV+ cats). Most cats that do relapse will occur in the first 4 weeks after stopping treatment, but occasionally relapses do occur months after remission. Another round of treatment is recommended in these rare cases and can be coordinated with your primary care veterinarian.