



# Feline Infectious Anemia



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**Feline Infectious Anemia (FIA)**, is an infectious disease found in cats, causing anemia and other symptoms. This disease is also known as **Feline Hemotropic Mycoplasmosis (FHM)** or **Hemobartonellosis**.

With this disease, the cat's red blood cells are infected by a microscopic blood bacterial parasite. The subsequent destruction of the infected red blood cells results in anemia. The anemia may be mild, at least in early infection, and not cause any obvious signs. Many cases of FIA can go undetected for some period of time. Some of these subclinical cats remain long-term carriers of the disease and unknowingly spread the disease to other cats.

**The hemotropic mycoplasmas (Hemoplasmas) that infect cats are:**

- Mycoplasma haemofelis (Mhf)
- Mycoplasma haemominutum (Mhm)
- Mycoplasma turicensis (Mtc)

Fleas and ticks can transfer the bacteria to any cats after feeding on infected animals, however cats with weak immune systems are more at risk.

**Symptoms of Feline Infectious Anemia include:**

- Loss of appetite
- Weakness (sudden or gradual)
- Lethargy
- Jaundice (pale or yellow-tinged mucous membranes in the gums, nose)
- Fever
- Diffuse whole-body tenderness

- Rapid breathing rate
- Depression
- Weight loss
- Increased heart rate

Feline Infectious Anemia (FIA) is **not** easily diagnosed by veterinarians since many conditions – **including Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)** – can cause the same symptoms. It is of utmost importance that you provide the veterinarian with a detailed medical history and information on what symptoms you have noticed and when they developed. The veterinarian will need to perform a complete physical exam and a series of tests to understand what is causing the symptoms.

Once the veterinarian is able to spot the bacteria in your cat's blood, and a diagnosis of FIA is reached, the infectious anemia will need to be treated with antibiotics to eliminate the mycoplasmas from the blood. The most effective and commonly used antibiotic to treat FIA is doxycycline (tetracycline and oxytetracycline are also effective). If your cat has an extreme case of FIA, a blood transfusion may be needed, however, this is rare and usually avoidable.

**EndFIP® has a vision: every cat a healthy cat.** This vision expands beyond the boundaries of FIP. Our focus is to educate, inform and inspire people to create lasting solution to prevent cats from becoming infected with feline coronavirus, thus preventing FIP altogether. We also like to provide information about other issues affecting cats worldwide. We hope that this flyer will help you to be more aware of this condition which resembles Feline Infectious Peritonitis and together with your veterinarian be able to **differentiate** one disease from the other thus proper, and timely treatments can be implemented.

