



## Valentine's Day Newsletter



Love is in the air!

**This Valentine's Day show your purrrrrfect kitties how much you love them by preventing them from becoming infected with FCoV.**

The single best way to prevent FIP is to prevent your cat becoming infected with feline coronavirus. FCoV infection occurs via oral-fecal route, therefore, your best chance of preventing FCoV infection of your cats is: preventing your cats coming into contact with infected cat feces.



Is your kitty an active Romeow?

or

You have those kitties looking for a long and committed relationship?



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## Dealing with Romeows and their Purrrrrfect Charm



### 🐾 *Stud cats and FCoV*

*Stud cats should be tested every year for FCoV antibodies along with their routine FeLV and FIV blood tests*

There is some evidence that susceptibility to developing FIP has a hereditary component, so if your stud has fathered many kittens who have developed FIP, you may want to think seriously about neutering him and keeping him as a pet or rehoming him.

### 🐾 *The FCoV antibody positive stud cat*

If your cat has been an active stud cat for many years, the chances are high that he will have antibodies against FCoV. If he has been exposed to FCoV for more than 2 years, it is unlikely that he will develop FIP now, except perhaps when he gets into old age and his immune system begins to wane, or some other thing suppresses his immune system. If he is a young stud and has only recently been infected with FCoV, then minimize the stress and optimize his nutrition to keep his chances of developing FIP to a minimum.

It is important in this cat to distinguish the two phenomena:

- The *FCoV antibody positive stud cat* has been exposed to the virus but may **not** be actively infected (i.e. he may not currently be excreting virus in his feces). About one cat in three with FCoV antibodies shed the virus at any given time, although the higher the antibody titer, the greater the chances that the cat is shedding the virus (you can find out if he is shedding the virus by sending a fecal sample to a veterinary laboratory for FCoV RT-PCR).
- The *FCoV RT-PCR positive stud cat* is quite definitely actively infected and is excreting virus in his feces, although in a few weeks or a month, it is very likely that he will stop doing so.



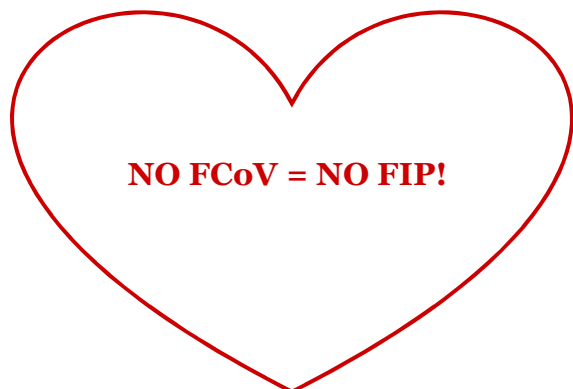
Your choices are between carrying on as before, with all the attendant risks, or beginning regular testing and introducing controlled mating and hygiene precautions to prevent re-infection of your stud cat once he stops shedding the virus. A small number of cats become FCoV carriers – shedding virus for all their lives. In that case, your choices would be between stop using him as a stud, or controlled mating only.

The important thing is HONESTY. If he is an open stud, please DO NOT be a source of infection for another cat breeder. If you explain your situation openly and honestly, it is surprising how understanding people will be and more people will come to you to use your stud because you are trustworthy and knowledgeable about FCoV and FIP.

### ***The FCoV antibody negative stud cat***

An FCoV free stud is something to be very proud of! If your whole household is FCoV free, then the only risks of him becoming infected are:

- By mating him with a FCoV infected queen
- By introducing into your house an untested, or improperly tested, FCoV infected cat
- By taking him to a cat show



***I can sleep peacefully knowing I am FCoV free***

## **How about the Pawsome Ladies?**

### ***Importance of testing the queen for FCoV antibodies***

Some breeders are reluctant to blood test a pregnant queen for FCoV antibodies because it may stress her. Some will have tested the queen prior to mating, although bear in mind that an uninfected queen could become infected at stud, so her status may have changed by the time she kittens. It is not a good idea to stress the queen immediately after kitting, as she may then reject the kittens, so the best time to antibody test is 2-4 weeks after giving birth.



Knowing the queen's antibody status is very useful for the following reasons:

- If the queen has an antibody titer of zero (by an immunofluorescent antibody test at a reputable laboratory) then she is not shedding the virus, and is safe to leave her with her kittens as long as you wish, no need to early wean! Though isolation of the queen and kittens together is essential unless all your other cats are also FCoV antibody titer zero.
- The lower the queen's antibody titer, the fewer protective antibodies the kittens will receive in their mother's milk, so you may want to consider testing her feces to see if she is shedding virus and if she is, to err on the early side of weaning the kittens (i.e. 4 or 5 weeks of age rather than 5-6 weeks).
- The higher the queen's FCoV antibody titer, the more protective antibodies the kittens will receive in their mother's milk, but also the chances of her shedding FCoV are higher. Around one in three cats with FCoV antibodies is shedding the virus at any given time; the higher the FCoV antibody titer, the greater the probability of virus excretion.



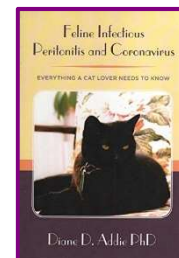
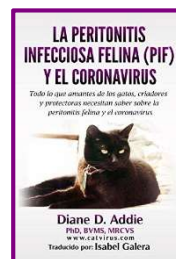
Want to learn more.

Visit: [www.endfip.com/breeders-101/](http://www.endfip.com/breeders-101/)

Buy Diane Addie's book Feline Infectious Peritonitis and Coronavirus which is available at Amazon.

Dr. Addie's book is an invaluable resource for every cat lover who wants to learn about Feline Infectious Peritonitis and Coronavirus. [Buy now.](#)

Dr. Addie's book is also available in Spanish at Amazon. [Buy now.](#)





### **Is Your Heart Melting?**

Do you know? It is inadvisable to FCoV antibody test kittens younger than 10 weeks old: kittens under 10 weeks of age may be infected but some are too young to have produced antibodies of their own. Most kittens can make antibodies by 10 weeks of age, so 10-16 weeks is the best time to test. Very young kittens may give a positive result not because they are infected, but because they have antibodies from their mother's milk.



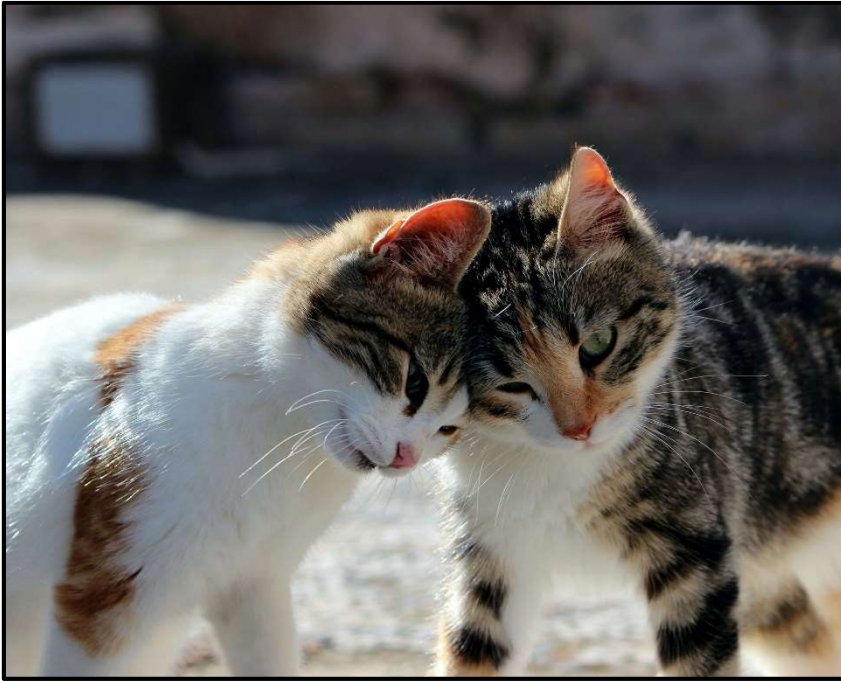
**Now... Let's paws and move on to discuss those kitties in long-term relationships**



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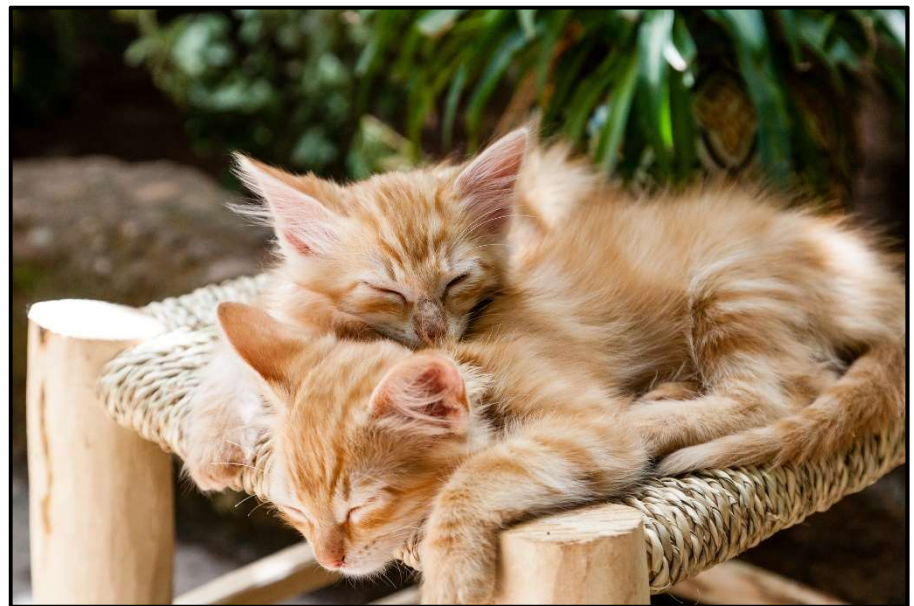
## Preventing your Cats in Pawsitive and Committed Relationships from Developing FIP



Feline coronavirus (FCoV), which causes FIP, is shed in the feces. FCoV infection occurs via oral-fecal route, therefore, your best chance of preventing FCoV infection of your cats, minimizing the chances of FIP occurring or eliminating FCoV from your cats is: preventing your cats coming into contact with infected cat feces. It is best if cats go outside to defecate (if it is safe from them to do so). However, in most cases this is not possible thus scrupulous cat litter tray(s) hygiene is a must.

In most instances, it is unlikely that cats could become infected by directly contacting an FCoV infected cat, even by close contact, such as fighting, mutual grooming or sharing food bowls. However, FCoV is occasionally (rarely) shed in the saliva for a few hours early in infection, so in situations such as boarding catteries or rescue shelters, where there may be a lot of newly infected cats, care must be taken not to transmit virus via contaminated food bowls or inhaling sneezed droplets.

FCoV is a very contagious virus, infecting nearly all cats who encounter it, the second major route of infection is the unintentional exposure of uninfected cats to tiny particles of infected feces on people's shoes or clothing, hands, poop scoops, etc. The infected cat likely swallows the virus when grooming, or when tiny particles of feces contaminate their food, it is for this reason that using a non-tracking litter and keeping food bowls in different rooms is highly recommended.



**Litter tray hygiene helps prevent FCoV transmission and minimizes the dose of virus to which a cat is exposed to. Your kitties will love you even more if you provide them with clean litter trays.**



### **General recommendations to prevent FCoV transmission:**

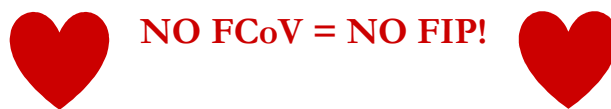
- Have a least one litter tray for each cat that you have (ideally one per each cat plus one more)
- Place litter trays as far away from food and water as possible
- De-clump litter trays at least once per day (ideally twice or more)
- Make it as easy as possible for yourself to clean the litter trays as often as possible (site litter trays in places which you frequent throughout your day)
- Use a non-tracking (clumping) cat litter
- Use a dirt trapper mat beside the litter tray
- Vacuum frequently (at least once a day – ideally keep a hand held vacuum close to the litter trays and vacuum that area as needed)
- Sterilize litter trays with steam or boiling water and disinfectant at least once a week (ideally a mixture of household bleach and hot water in a 1:32 solution. Other options include steam and surgical spirits. Please make sure to avoid any disinfectant containing phenol which is toxic to cats, most pine-based disinfectant contain phenol.
- Trim the hair of back legs and tail (trim the “trousers” of long-haired cats to reduce the chances of feces getting trapped on them).

Want to learn more. Visit: [www.endfip.com/pet-owners/](http://www.endfip.com/pet-owners/)

Buy Diane Addie’s book Feline Infectious Peritonitis and Coronavirus – Everything a cat lover needs to know which is available both in English and Spanish at Amazon. [Buy now.](#)



Love is a four-letter word that comes in all shapes and sizes, for all of us blessed with pets, the purest form of love comes in four paws. This Valentine's Day, EndFIP® is sharing a message of love by informing and continuing to impart worldwide awareness and understanding of feline coronavirus and respect for the seriousness of FCoV infection. Do not invite pain and heartache into your life. FIP doesn't discriminate and it is merciless. Prevent your cats from becoming infected by FCoV.



**Wishing you a Happy Valentine's Day spent with all the ones you love, especially all the four paws in your life!**



This Valentine's Day, thanks to the generosity of our leadership donors, ALL donations received by the Luca Fund for FIP Research will be matched (heart per heart)

**"For it was not my ear you whispered, but into my heart.  
It was not my lips you kissed, but my soul" - Judy Garland**

The Luca Fund for FIP Research is part of the global vision of the EndFIP® project. Your donation to the Luca Fund for FIP Research will be applied to studies conducted at Glasgow University School of Veterinary Medicine. The Luca Fund for FIP Research is a special fund of the American Alumni of Glasgow University. AAGU has been recognized by the IRS as a section 501(c)(3) charitable organization and all donations to AAGU are deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law.



Help us accomplish our goals. Your donation is both needed and appreciated. EndFIP® is committed to exclusively support research that does not use laboratory cats and does not conduct experimental infection of healthy cats with a deadly virus.

**[www.endfip.com/donate/](http://www.endfip.com/donate/)**