Feline Upper Respiratory Infections

Causes of URI

Etiologic Agent	Prevalence	Antibiotic?	Clinical Signs
Herpesvirus	80-90%	n/a	Clear discharge Corneal ulcers
Calicivirus		n/a	Clear discharge Oral ulcers
Mycoplasma	<20%	~~Azithromycin~~ Doxycycline Pradofloxacin	Mucoid discharge
Bordetella		Doxycycline ~~Azithromycin~~ TMS Pradofloxacin	Mucoid discharge
Chlamydia		Doxycycline ~~Pradofloxacin~~	Mucoid discharge Conjunctivitis

UCDAVIS KORET SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

Subscribe

Search the library

Services | Programs | About | Library | News | Donate | Vet Med Links

Library

- Library
  - Shelter Health Resources
  - Shelter Operations/Capacity for Care Resources
  - Facility Design Resources
  - Cat Housing for Animal Shelters
  - Portals: Opening the Door to Lifesaving

URI Sample Treatment Protocol

PDF

Updated:	5/13/2026
Categories:	Feline, Infectious Disease, Information Sheet, Shelter Population Management

> *Download this sample treatment protocol for feline URI and consult with a veterinarian to modify it as needed so you'll be prepared to respond to infections swiftly and effectively.*

Having a written medical protocol for common illnesses seen in animal shelters, such as feline URI, is a good

https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/uri-sample-treatment-protocol

Doxycycline Suspension

Doxycycline Suspension

Authors: Dr. Christina Barrett

Publication Date: 10/24/2019

Categories: FAQs, Infectious Disease

Question:

I attended a lecture recently given by Dr. Hurley. She mentioned a study that shows compounded Doxycycline becoming unstable after seven days. We have read over the study and have decided to try compounding it ourselves in smaller doses, about a week's worth at a time. I have tried researching how we are able to compound it ourselves and what to use as a suspension. I was wondering what is currently recommended to use? Thank you for your time.

https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/doxycycline-suspension

What causes URIs?

PLOS ONE

Table 3. Poisson regression: URI risk factors in adult cats.

Variable	IRR	95% Confidence interval	P value
Cat intake (ln)	1.23	0.75–2.02	0.41
Intake Housing Floor Space <6 ft^2	1.00		
Intake Housing Floor Space 6 to <8 ft^2 [a]	0.69	0.45–1.06	0.09
Intake Housing Floor Space >8 ft^2 [b]	0.078	0.06–0.10	<0.0001
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Never)	1.00		
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Sometimes)	7.29	3.04–17.50	<0.0001
Hiding Space in Intake Housing (Always)	5.98	3.46–10.32	<0.0001
Mixed-Age Housing present	1.00		
No Mixed-Age Housing	1.89	0.78–4.58	0.16
Number of Housing Moves (> 2 in first week of stay)	1.00		
Number of Housing Moves (≤ 2 in first week of stay)	0.19	0.14–0.25	<0.0001
Intranasal Vaccine Use (FVRC[c])	1.66	1.13–2.44	0.010

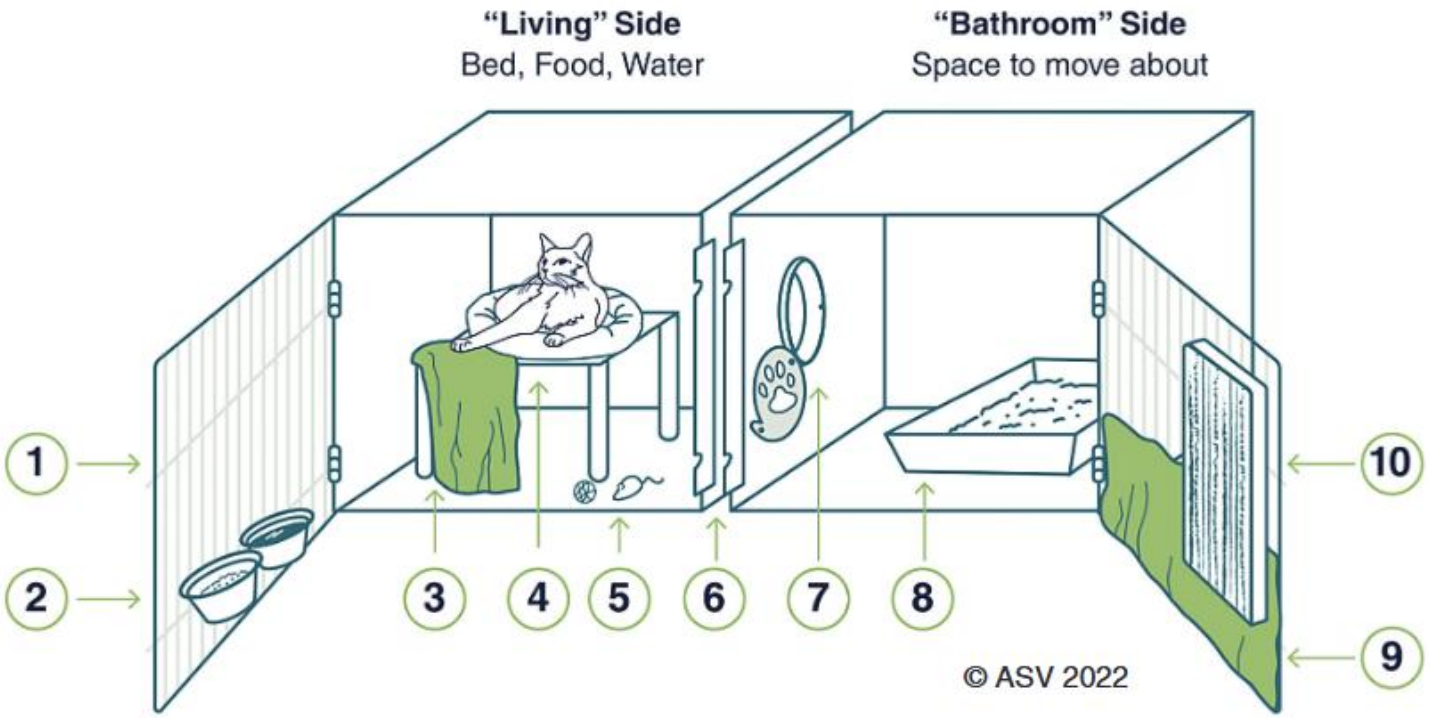
[a] 0.56–0.74m^2

[b] >0.74m^2

[c] Feline viral rhinotracheitis (feline herpesvirus-1) and calicivirus

https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0190140.t003

Check for updates



1. Open Bars
   - Interaction
   - Ventilation
2. Food and water
3. Draped Towel
   - Hiding place
   - Interaction choice
4. Raised Bed
   - Soft resting place
   - Retreat space
5. Toys
6. Quiet latches and hinges
7. Portal
   - Ease of daily care
   - Separation of spaces
   - Open except during cleaning
8. Litter box
   - Full size
   - No shelf above
9. Partial Cage Cover
   - Retreat space
   - Interaction choice
10. Scratching Material

1
CAT

UC DAVIS KORET SHELTER MEDICINE PROGRAM

Subscribe

Search the library

Services | Programs | About | Library | News | Donate

Top News

- Making shelter medicine happen: Kiska Icard, San Jose Animal Care & Services
- Ringworm remedies: Five ways to prevent common bottlenecks
- Making shelter medicine happen: Javier "Javi" Valles, Austin Animal Services
- I've Been Changing Needles for Years. Here's Why I'm Reconsidering.
- New Guidelines Provide a Blueprint for Humane Rabbit Housing in Animal Shelters

Newsletters

Latest newsletter

Subscribe

Search KSMP News & Info

Looking for more information about KSMP services, personnel, and news? Use the search form below.

Search KSMP info ...

Portals: Opening the Door to Lifesaving

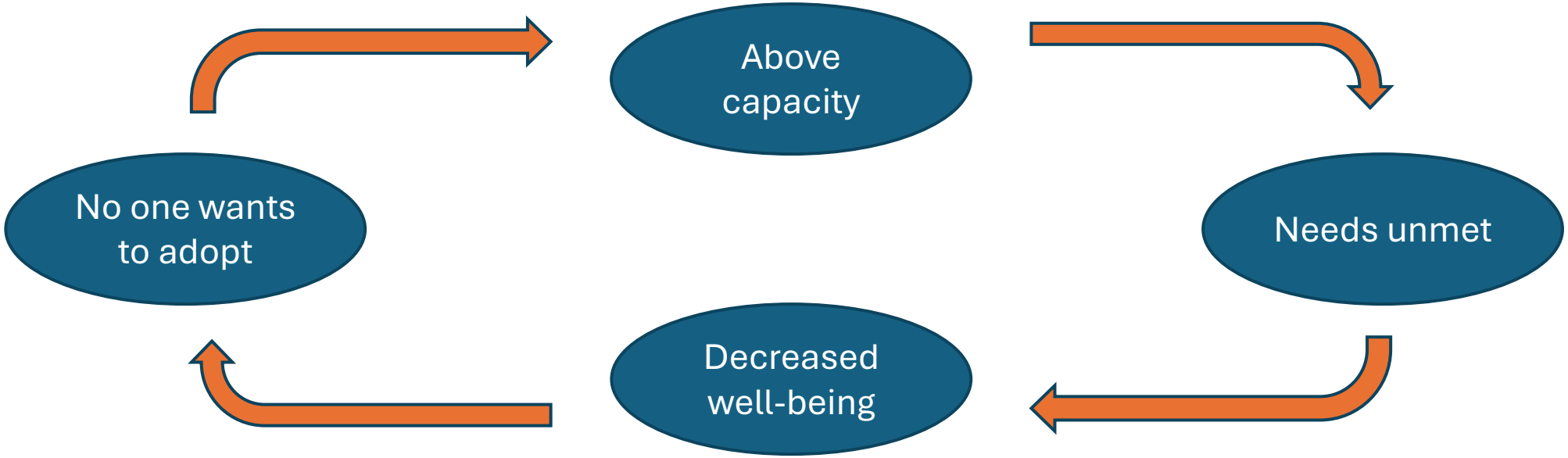
What are portals?

Portals inexpensively join two adjacent cat cages into a spiffy double-compartment cat condo via a pass-through that can be shut for cleaning. Portals tend to be side-to-side. They can also be top-bottom. Either way, they're better for cats, staff, and volunteers.

https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library-resources/cat-housing-for-animal-shelters/portals-opening-the-door-to-lifesaving/

Capacity for care

- Organization's ability to provide humane care for every animal
- "Operating beyond an organization's capacity for care is an unacceptable practice."



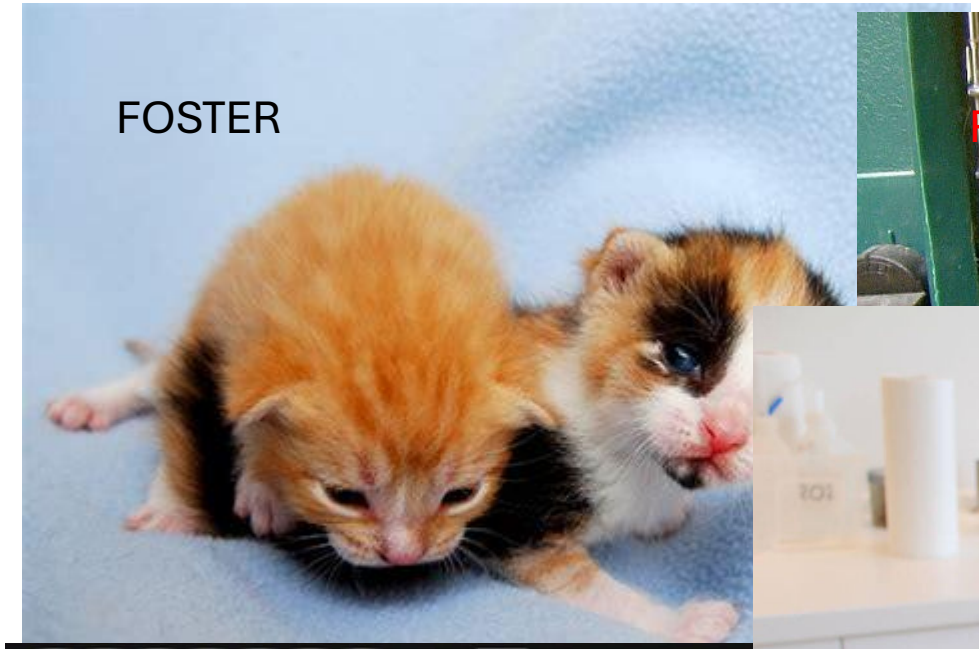
Determining capacity for care

- Humane housing capacity
- Staff time and skills
- Time for medical/behavioral cases
- Finances and material goods

Length of stay

Table 2.1. Example of the relationship between length of stay and shelter population

Average admissions per day	Average length of stay (days)	Average daily population (animals)	Admissions per year (animals)
10	7	70	3,650
10	14	140	3,650
10	21	210	3,650

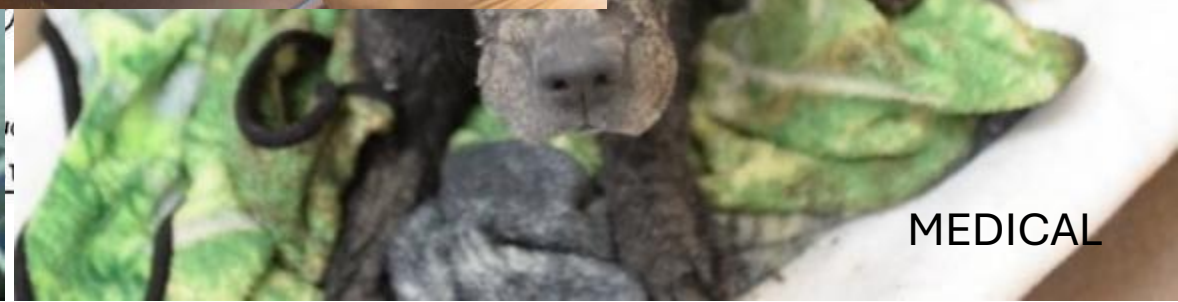

FOSTER

RTF (RTH)

ADOPTION –
FAST TRACK

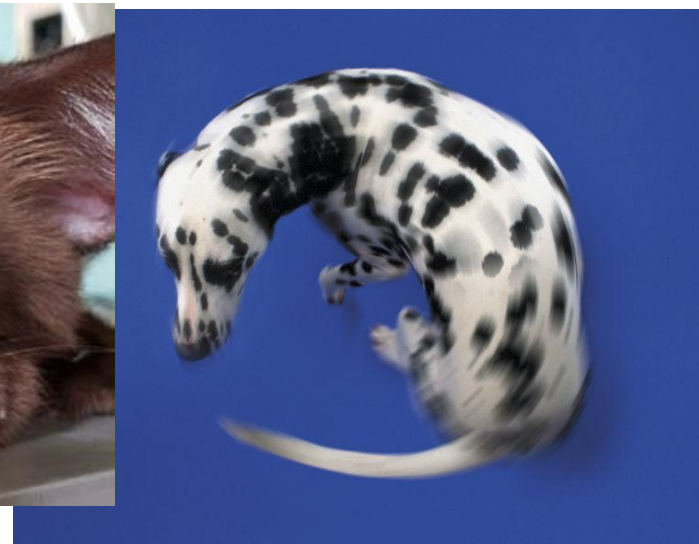
RTO (RTH)

ADOPTION –
SLOW TRACK

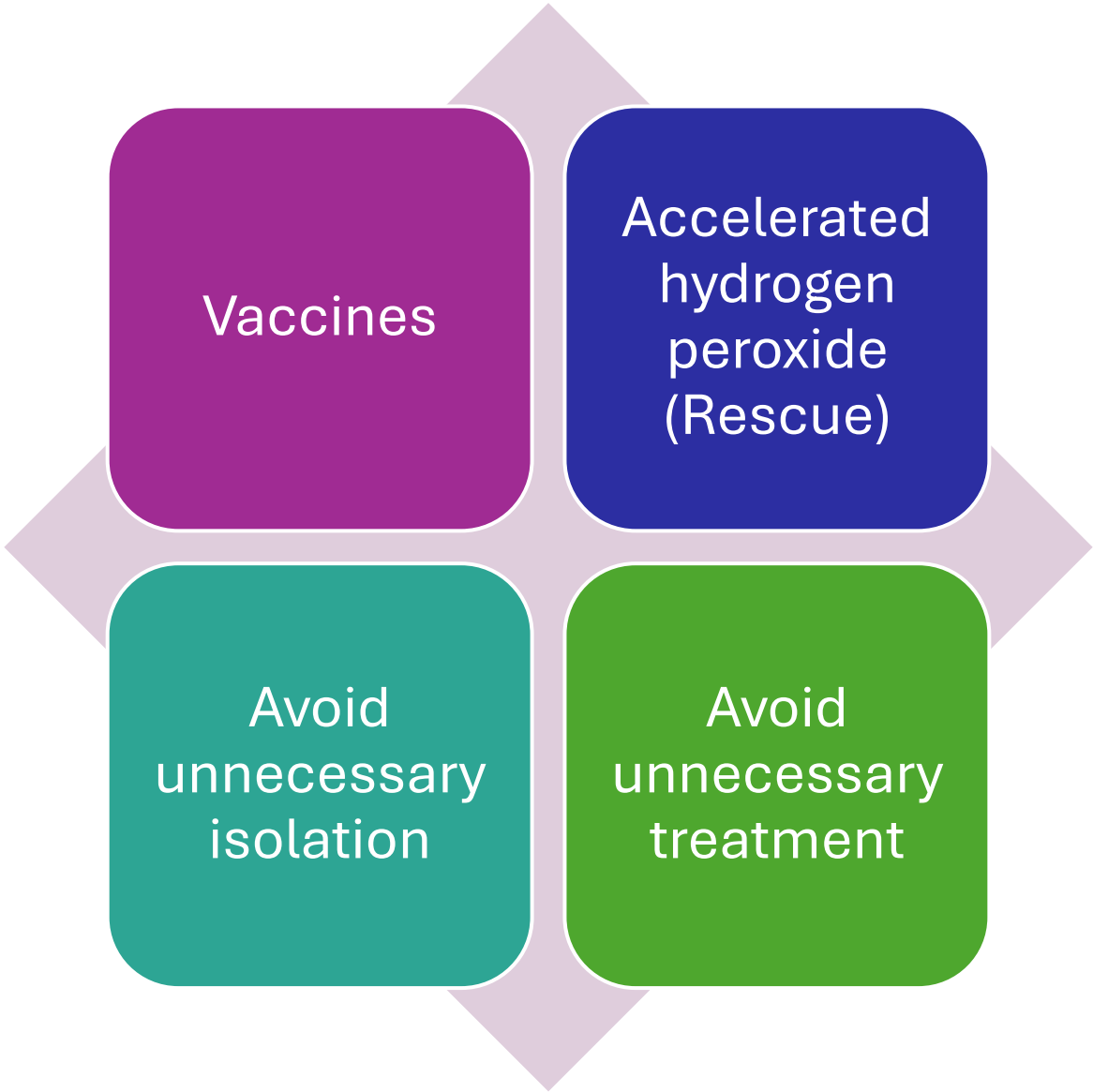

MEDICAL

Population rounds

- How are you doing?
- What is your pathway?
  - Are there updates or concerns that change this pathway?
- What are your next steps?



Other URI Management Tools



What is an outbreak?

- Increase in NUMBER or SEVERITY of cases

How do you identify an outbreak?

- Must know what normal is
- Routine health monitoring

Takeaways

- Most URIs don’t need antibiotics
- Stress prevents URIs
- Use C4C and LOS to prevent stress
  - Pathway planning
  - Population rounds
- Use your data to make decisions