



Important Information about a new strain of FIP

You may have heard about an outbreak of Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP), caused by a new strain of Feline Coronavirus in Cyprus. This started in January and is spreading throughout the island.

In the UK, FIP doesn't normally behave like an infectious disease, most cases are isolated incidents. However, in this outbreak affected cats are highly infectious and the disease spreads rapidly once the virus enters a group or colony.

There is speculation about the infection coming to the UK and other parts of Europe. DEFRA have been contacted and are aware but at present there seem to be no plans to prevent cats from Cyprus entering this country, although GCCF and other organisations on the Canine & Feline Sector Group are pressing for them to reconsider.

In the meantime, GCCF is advising people going to Cyprus from the UK *not* to adopt rescue cats at the moment, and to avoid/minimise contact with cats on the island, avoid contact with cat faeces and clean/disinfect thoroughly any item where this has occurred.

Anyone returning from a holiday in Cyprus should also thoroughly clean and disinfect the soles of their shoes (or change them to a clean pair) before entering their home just in case of any faecal contamination.

The likely risk of indirect transmission by fomites without faecal contamination is very low but this is based on the assumption that the environmental viability is the same as other Feline Coronaviruses as the new strain has not been specifically tested for this feature.

Any additional information received will be posted on the GCCF web site.

**Please be cautious – we do not want to risk our cats
for the sake of a little extra hygiene.**