**PANLEUK FOSTER PACKET**

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**LITTER NAME & NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**PL RE-TEST DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

To schedule a panleuk re-test for kittens, please contact the nursery Rx techs at bbrxtech@austinpetsalive.org or fill out the [Neonatal Medical Request Form](https://forms.gle/PnuWJFuVgv69nH1QA).

**IN CASE OF EMERGENCIES:**

The number for the APA! Clinic is 512-466-0720

The after-hours emergency line is 888-733-8840

# **Panleuk At Home Treatment Instructions – Medication List**

**Fluids:

LRS** – injected under the skin three times a day for 5 days.

* LRS (Lactated Ringers) is a clear, sterile solution for fluid and electrolyte replenishment and is given subcutaneously.
* Store at room temperature away from direct sunlight.
* Dosages:

 **Antibiotics:**

**Baytril** – injected once a day for 5 days. **(ALWAYS mixed in fluids)**

* Baytril is a clear, sticky, light sensitive broad spectrum antibiotic.
* **Do NOT inject Baytril directly into the skin**. It will cause abscesses. Baytril will be provided already diluted in LRS.
* Store at room temperature away from any light (wrapped in paper towels or similar).
* Dosages:

**Polyflex** – injected under the skin twice a day for 5 days.

* Polyflex is a white injectable antibiotic. It should be gently shaken before administering as contents can settle.
* Give fluids, then inject Polyflex into the fluid bubble to minimize stinging.
* Store in the refrigerator.
* Dosages:

**Antiemetic:**

**Cerenia** – injected under the skin once a day for 5 days.

* Cerenia is a clear injectable medication to treat vomiting.
* Cerenia can cause a burning sensation when injected. The kitten must be scruffed or restrained when Cerenia is given because the kitten may have a negative reaction and try to escape. This reaction is short-lived, but the initial reactions to the injection range from mild to severe. *Negative reactions can be minimized if the Cerenia injection is given in the SQ fluid bubble of a fluid (LRS) injection.*
* Store in the refrigerator away from light (wrapped in paper towels or similar).
* Dosages:

**Oral medications:**

**Toltrazuril** - by mouth once a day for 3 days.

* Toltrazuril is a cream-colored oral solution used to treat parasitic infections.
* Store at room temperature.
* Dosages:

**Panacur** – by mouth once a day for 3 days.

* Panacur (fenbendazole) is a broad spectrum parasiticide used to treat intestinal worms.
* Store at room temperature.
* Dosages:

**Fortiflora** – 1 pinch in warmed food per feeding. Fortiflora is not necessary every time kittens are fed, but is recommended while they are on antibiotics and when their stool is runny. Fortiflora must be added to gruel or syringe gruel after it has been warmed.

**Other Medications** –

# **Fading Kitten Protocol**

Fading Kitten Syndrome is a life threatening emergency in which a kitten, sometimes one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade. This can occur with kittens who have a mother as well as those who do not, so watch for mother cats pushing away a kitten and not caring for it. If not dealt with immediately, this can result in death. There is not always a clear reason for this condition. It has been linked to birth defects, environmental stress, and infectious disease. Early detection and treatment are imperative; but even with tube feeding, re-hydration and monitoring many of these kittens will still die.

**Symptoms**

* Low body temperature; the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch
* Extreme lethargy; not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when touched, can’t hold its head up
* Gasping for breath; mouth-breathing
* Meowing, crying out

When a kitten is fading, two things are happening: hypothermia (being too cold) and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). You must get the kitten’s body temperature up and raise its blood sugar or it will die.

**Take immediate action.**

* Get them warm. Immediately wrap the kitten up in a towel like a burrito leaving only their face exposed. Their whole body—tail, ears, and paws--should be in the towel, only eyes, nose and mouth exposed. **Do not take the kitten out of the towel to adjust them or check on them.** Every time you take them out you will make them cold again, even if it is only for a second.
* Wrap a heating pad set on low around the burrito towel (to avoid burns) as an extra source of heat; secure it around the towel so it stays in place.
* The kitten’s body cannot warm itself with only a towel; you have to apply extra heat. Your own body heat won’t work because it is lower than what a kitten’s should be.

**As soon as heat has been applied, you will need to work on raising the blood sugar.**

* Put some sugar or Karo Syrup in warm water, 50/50. Put some in a syringe and give the kitten one drop every three minutes.
* If the kitten is not swallowing, try rubbing some Karo or sugar-water on its gums and tongue.
* Be sure you are administering the sugar every three minutes and not longer.

It may seem like you are not doing enough to help the kitten, but this is the only treatment for a fading kitten. There is not anything other than the steps above that the medical team can, or will, do for a fading kitten. We generally have success with fading kittens when following the above steps. Keep in mind, it can sometimes take hours for them to come out of it and start acting normally again.

You can call the clinic for next steps after the kitten is out of the fade. The number for the APA! Clinic is 512-466-0720

The after-hours emergency line is 888-733-8840

**Bathing Post-Panleuk Kittens (Bathing Out)**

Before a kitten is moved to a post-panleuk foster or elsewhere, they must be thoroughly bathed. It is important that all feces, dirt, litter, etc. is removed from the kitten to avoid spreading viral particles.

1. Before you bathe kittens, make sure you have enough clean crates ready with bedding and heat sources for them after they are clean.
2. Turn the water on to a lukewarm temperature, and make sure you have kitten shampoo and nail clippers available.
3. Bathe the kitten with shampoo, paying close attention to paws, nails, whiskers, ears, and rear end. Rinse.
4. Repeat the shampoo lathering. Rinse.
5. Place the kitten in a towel and clip nails. Be careful to avoid cutting the quick on the kittens’ nails. Most cats have 5 front claws and 4 back claws on each foot.
6. Dry well and place in a clean crate with dry bedding and a heat source. Repeat for each additional kitten.
7. See below for information on how to clean and disinfect the panleuk-contaminated space.

# **How To Disinfect A Home After Panleuk**

It is preferable that any linens the kittens may have touched are thrown away. If this is not possible, you can wash all bedding, blankets, towels, pillows, rugs, or clothing the kitten has had contact with.

1. Use bleach in the warm-wash cycle to kill any viral particles that may be present in the fabric. Carpets and other soft surfaces that can’t go in the washing machine should be steam-cleaned.
2. Thoroughly clean all hard surfaces (flooring, counters, cabinets, doors) with a cleaner such as Formula 409 to remove obvious dirt/debris. Follow with an application of 1:32 diluted bleach solution.
3. Allow this solution to sit for 10 minutes, then repeat the cleaning (scrub) and disinfecting (10 minutes of dilute bleach soaking) process two more times, using fresh bleach solution each time. After the final bleach soak, wipe the area dry.
4. Alternatively, the commercially available product Rescue diluted at 1:16 can be used in place of 409 and bleach for cleaning and disinfecting. Allow it to sit for 5 minutes and repeat the process three times as you would with bleach.

# **Guidelines for fostering after panleuk**

# APA! requires fosters who have had panleuk kittens in their home to wait a period of 6 months before you can bring home most types of new foster kittens.

# However, you can still foster panleuk-positive kittens, post-panleuk kittens (they are immune to the virus once they’ve recovered and can no longer spread it if they have been properly bathed), and/or kittens that are over 5 months and have had a minimum of 2 vaccines, with at least one administered after 20 weeks old. If you are interested in fostering and treating panleuk-positive kittens, we can provide training!

# **Panleuk FAQ**

**1. What is panleukopenia?**

Feline panleukopenia (sometimes called panleuk or PL for short) is a highly contagious viral disease of cats caused by the feline parvovirus. Kittens are most severely affected by the virus. It is transmittable through bodily fluids and feces. Panleuk can live on and be transmitted from almost all surfaces. The incubation period is typically 3 to 5 days.

**2. Why is there an outbreak?**

Panleuk is very difficult to eradicate. The virus can live on anything and it can live in the environment for up to a year if not properly cleaned or if it’s on a surface that is uncleanable (dirt). This makes the virus highly contagious.

**3. When does it affect kittens?**

Because panleuk is everywhere in the environment, virtually all kittens and cats are exposed to the virus at some point in their lives. While cats of any age may be infected, young kittens, sick cats, and unvaccinated cats are most susceptible. Kittens are most susceptible between the ages of 3 and 12 weeks of age when they are unvaccinated and their passive immunity (from their mother) is waning.

**4. What signs should I watch for?**

The most common symptoms of panleuk are vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, lethargy, dehydration, and/or sudden death. Isolated symptoms are not always a sign of panleuk; many other illnesses can cause these same symptoms, and kittens will often have diarrhea that is not caused by panleuk! Normally in a panleuk-positive case, we see a combination of the above symptoms.

**5. What do I do if I see symptoms in my foster(s)?**

Contact the medical team as soon as you notice symptoms. Treatment should be started as soon as possible, so acting quickly is very important. Fill out the [Neonatal Medical Request Form](https://forms.gle/PnuWJFuVgv69nH1QA) during regular business hours, or contact the clinic after-hours emergency line at 888-733-8840.

**6. What is the treatment for panleuk and how long does it last?**

Panleuk symptoms are treated using injectable antibiotics, anti-diarrheal medications, anti-nausea medications, and fluids, as well as force feedings if needed. Treatments are done 2 to 3 times a day for at least 5 days.

**7. Why can’t I bring my sick kittens back to the shelter?**

Because panleuk is so contagious, bringing them back to the shelter puts every other kitten at risk. Additionally, the kitten has a better chance of survival with one-on-one care. YOU can provide the daily care needed for the kitten! Also, your house has already been exposed to the virus, so having the kitten leave will not “decontaminate” your space. It can be scary but we can teach you everything you need to know and provide training on medicating the kittens if you need it.

**8. What steps does APA! take to prevent panleuk outbreaks?**

APA! has a Panleuk Ward and has put into effect strict guidelines to prevent cross-contamination between the ward and the nursery. APA! has also created and effectively put into use a medical protocol to treat panleuk.

**9. What is the survival rate for panleuk?**

About 75% with early, aggressive treatment.

**10. What do I do if a kitten becomes critical?**

Notify medical staff at the APA! clinic immediately. Start Fading Kitten Protocol if the kitten is showing “fading” symptoms, such as becoming unresponsive, not holding their head up, labored breathing, cold to the touch, etc. The number for the APA! clinic is 512-466-0720 and the after-hours emergency line is 888-733-8840. Do not transport the kitten until it is not fading - the best chance for its survival is following the FKP at home.