

FELINE CHRONIC GINGIVO-STOMATITIS (FCGS)

Veterinary Dentistry and Oral Surgery of Rhode Island

Client and Patient Education Sheet

Definition:

FCGS is a complex, painful disease characterized by severe widespread inflammation of the entire mouth affecting not only the gums tissue but also the mucosal and submucosal tissues of the cheek and throat.

Causes:

The cause of feline chronic gingivostomatitis remains unknown. There appears to be an abnormal immune response in response to virus, bacteria and/or plaque.

Gingivitis vs Stomatitis:

Gingivitis affects only the gum line and is therefore, typically tolerated by our feline friends. FCGS, on the other hand is debilitating, affecting the lips, gums, tongue, throat and top and bottom of the mouth.

Symptoms of FCGS

- Halitosis (foul breath)
- Excessive drooling
- Reduced grooming
- Oral Pain
- Dropping food
- Crying while eating
- Avoiding food and weight loss

Contagious?

Stomatitis is not itself contagious. However, if a virus is the underlying cause, the virus may be transmitted between cats.

Diagnosis

-Thorough Oral Exam

-Blood work to Rule Out Systemic Disease

-Viral Screening may be advised

-Dental x-rays can identify if your cat is also experiencing tooth resorption and/or inflammation of the bone around the teeth known as periodontitis.

Treatment: Cleanings

Cleanings At Home and Under Anesthesia

These are good preventative measures for some cats. Diligent at home care with daily brushing, oral rinses or sprays are imperative for ongoing care after dental cleanings to combat bacteria and reduce the risk of recurring hyperimmune response.

Treatment: Dental Extractions

Studies show that 90% of cats that undergo partial or full mouth extractions show complete resolution of symptoms. Cats not responding to high level plaque control should pursue dental extractions

It is imperative that all roots are fully extracted to reduce risk of retained roots and associated risk of infection. To ensure best outcomes staging of the full mouth may be required.