

RABBITS & PETS

DISTEMPER IN CATS.

Distemper in cats is one of the most curious and dangerous diseases a cat can be afflicted with, and if neglected, in the least, often proves fatal.

This disease or complaint starts in many ways, viz., a neglected cold, bad food, dirt, and a host of other ways.

We will take a kitten, at three months old, there is usually a change begins to work on the kitten at this age, it will commence changing its coat and whilst going through the moult it is most difficult to manage. Colds are more easily got, stomach easily upset, and when the stomach is wrong, the whole system is soon out of order. When kittens get upset by catching a cold, they begin sneezing, eyes water and matter, and they have no appetite. If neglected they go from bad to worse, blood gets out of order, skin gets irritable, and with scratching, sores develop, hair falls off, then the cat or kitten has got distemper or mange.

When poor pussy shows any of these symptoms, put her into a warm room by herself, give a dose of sulphur paste once every two days for a week. It will clear the stomach and cool the blood, and recruit the appetite.

If no sulphur paste, a small teaspoonful of castor oil given every other day works well, but sulphur paste is the best. Wrap a small piece of flannel round the neck to avoid a sore throat, which is a complaint that is unsuspected, and often when the cats or kits would eat, a sore throat stops them. To stop sneezing I have found nothing better than a small powder, as much as will cover

a sixpenny piece, three times a day in warm milk, made from the following:—Ipecacuanha 3 grains; James Powder 3 grains; Liquorice 70 grains. Mix well together and give as directed.

If the eyes are inflamed and sore, dissolve a small teaspoonful of borax in warm water, and bathe the eyes two or three times a day, taking care to use fresh water and borax every time the bathing is done. Should the cat or kitten start vomiting give her half-a-teaspoonful of Glauber Salts well diluted with water, this may increase the sickness for a while, should it do so it will do more good by clearing the stomach. If the cat or kittens should be troubled with sores, and hair falling off the best thing I know of is an ointment made from pure lard (without salt) and sulphur, mix well together and rub the parts affected. When the sores are healed, to make the hair grow, give the pussy twice a day one teaspoonful of the following mixture: Six drops of Liquor Arsenicalis in an ounce of water.

Food during pussy's illness must be strengthening. I have found cod liver oil, a small spoonful given twice a day to work wonders. Fresh haddock, boiled and given every other day is strengthening, Spratt's puppy biscuits, soaked, and a little boiled cauliflower mixed together is a good diet, and one that I can safely recommend.

I hope these few hints, which are as short as I can make them, will be accepted, as they are meant, for the benefit of poor puss. One thing I would say, these hints are from practical experience, and have been used with success.—G. W. SUGGETT in *Fur & Feather*.

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