



GLOUCESTERSHIRE ANIMAL WELFARE ASSOCIATION & CHELTENHAM ANIMAL SHELTER

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Registered Charity: 1081019

Cryptosporidium in cats

Thank you for considering giving one of our kittens a loving home. These kittens have previously been diagnosed with **Cryptosporidium**, and we want you to have all the information you need before deciding if they are the right pet for you.

What is Cryptosporidium?

Cryptosporidium (often shortened to “Crypto”) is a microscopic parasite that lives in the intestines. It can cause diarrhea, particularly in young animals or those with developing immune systems.

Many kittens recover well with supportive care and go on to live happy, healthy lives. In some cases, they may continue to carry the parasite even when they are no longer showing any signs of illness.

Is my kitten still ill?

No.

The kittens available for adoption are **no longer showing any symptoms** and are eating, growing, playing and behaving just like any other healthy kitten.

Although they have recovered from their illness, they may continue to carry Cryptosporidium without appearing unwell.

Will they need ongoing treatment?

There is no medication that completely eliminates Cryptosporidium in every case.

To help keep their digestive system healthy, we recommend:

- Feeding a consistent, high-quality diet.
- Continuing with probiotics as advised.
- Avoiding sudden changes in food where possible.
- Monitoring for any signs of digestive upset.

Many cats never experience further problems.

What symptoms should I look out for?

Most cats remain perfectly well.

If symptoms do occur, they may include:

- Loose stools or diarrhea
- Occasional tummy upset
- Reduced appetite (less common)

If your cat develops persistent diarrhea or appears unwell, you should contact your vet.

Can other pets catch it?

Cryptosporidium can spread through infected faeces.

Good hygiene greatly reduces the risk of transmission.

If you have other cats, your vet can advise you on any precautions that may be appropriate. Most healthy adult cats have a much lower risk of developing illness than young kittens.

Can people catch Cryptosporidium?

Cryptosporidium is a **zoonotic parasite**, which means it can sometimes be passed from animals to people.

For most healthy adults and children, the risk is low when good hygiene is followed.

However, infection can be more serious for people with weakened immune systems.

For this reason, **we cannot rehome these kittens to households where anyone is immunocompromised.**

This includes people whose immune systems are weakened by illness, certain medical conditions or medications.

If you are unsure whether this applies to your household, please speak to your doctor before applying.

Good hygiene at home

Simple hygiene measures make a big difference.

We recommend:

- Wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning the litter tray.
- Clean litter trays every day.
- Dispose of cat waste carefully.

- Keep food preparation areas separate from litter trays.
 - Wear gloves if preferred when cleaning litter trays.
 - Encourage children to wash their hands after handling pets.
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Diet recommendations

A healthy digestive system helps reduce the chance of tummy upsets.

We recommend:

- Feeding the diet advised by the Shelter.
 - Introducing any new food gradually over 7–10 days.
 - Continuing probiotics if recommended.
 - Ensuring fresh drinking water is always available.
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Will my kitten live a normal life?

Yes.

Cats carrying *Cryptosporidium* can enjoy a completely normal, active and happy life.

Our kittens are playful, affectionate and full of personality, and we expect them to make wonderful family pets.

Why are we telling adopters about this?

We believe in being completely open about every animal's medical history.

Providing this information helps adopters make an informed decision and ensures every cat is matched with the right home.

Have more questions?

Our team is always happy to help.

If you would like to discuss *Cryptosporidium* or any aspect of caring for your new pet, please speak to a member of our Animal Care Team before adoption.

Thank you for helping give a rescue cat the loving home they deserve.