

# CONTROLLING THE COMMON KITTY COLD

And other transmittable diseases in the  
Aurora Animal Shelter

By

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## Denver News

### Nearly Two Dozen Cats Euthanized Over Ringworm

*Mountain Community Divided Over IMHS Action*

*Marc Stewart, 7News Reporter*

POSTED: 8:57 pm MST January 13, 2011

UPDATED: 8:25 am MST January 14, 2011



**PINE JUNCTION, Colo.** -- The Intermountain Humane Society in Pine Junction is temporarily closed. The entire facility is being sanitized and painted after six cats became infected with ringworm.

It's an outbreak so dire, the shelter board agreed to euthanize all 23 cats in its care.

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# RINGWORM

- ▶ November 2010
  - ▶ 6 cats from the Aurora Animal Shelter develop ringworm
  - ▶ The single common denominator is that they have all been in the main cat room

# RINGWORM

- ▶ November 22, 2010
  - ▶ PhotoDynamic Technology cell is installed in the main cat room
  - ▶ The outbreak stops, no more ringworm is identified

# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ PhotoDynamic Technology remains in the main cat room
- ▶ Numbers of cats contracting contagious airborne diseases (URI, upper respiratory infection) is tracked
- ▶ PhotoDynamic Technology is left on for one and half months, turned off for one month, and turned back on for one month

# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ The first time the PhotoDynamic Technology is activated, 12% of the cats showed signs of URI
- ▶ While the unit is turned off for a month, 17% of the cats develop signs of URI
- ▶ When the unit is turned back on, 0% of the cats develop signs

# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ Conditions that should affect the amount of URI in cats:
  - ▶ Length of stay – staying longer in an environment makes it more likely that you will acquire diseases present in that location
  - ▶ Number of cats in the room – stress decreases the ability to fight off disease, and many cat neighbors will stress out a cat as well as increase the amount of disease that can be present

# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ Length of Stay
  - ▶ During the first month and a half while the PhotoDynamic Technology was on, the average stay was 13 days
  - ▶ While the PhotoDynamic Technology was off for a month ~ 8 days on average
  - ▶ The second time the PhotoDynamic Technology was on for 9 days
- ▶ Results
  - ▶ The amount of URI should have been highest the first and last time periods ~ instead, it was lower



# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ Number of cats in the room
  - ▶ During the first month and a half while the PhotoDynamic Technology cell was on, the average number of cats in the main room was 16.3
  - ▶ While the unit was off for a month, 12 cats in the main room on average
  - ▶ The second time the PhotoDynamic Technology was on, 14.7 cats
- ▶ Results
  - ▶ The amount of URI should have been highest the first and last time periods, instead, it was lower

# KITTY COLDS

- ▶ The length of stay while the PhotoDynamic Technology cell was running should have made the URI worse
  - ▶ INSTEAD IT WAS BETTER
- ▶ The number of cats in the room while the PhotoDynamic Technology cell was running should have made the URI worse
  - ▶ INSTEAD IT WAS BETTER

# SUMMARY

- ▶ With no other changes, use of the PhotoDynamic Technology in the main cat room of the Aurora Animal Shelter decreased the amount of upper respiratory infections.

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