



Catskill Veterinary Services PLLC

PO Box 465
230 Rock Hill Drive
Rock Hill, New York, 12775
Ph: 845-796-5919
Email: info@catskillvetservices.com

July 15, 2023

Rockland Green
C/O Gerard Damiani
172 Main Street
Nanuet, New York, 10954

RE: Hi Tor Animal Care Center

Dear Gerard Damiani,

Thank you for meeting me today at the Hi Tor Animal Care Center at 65 Firemen Memorial Drive in Pomona, NY. Per our conversation here are some of my observations and concerns after today's visit.

It is my understanding that there have been several cats that have tested positive for the Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPL) and as of today there are nine cats with the virus. One out of the nine cats is more advanced than the others. FPL is caused by a virus of the Parvovirus family. It is a similar disease to Parvovirus in dogs. Parvoviruses are among the toughest viruses known and are only killed with strong disinfectants and proper handling. The virus can survive in some environments for weeks to months. After reviewing the event timeline it appears the outbreak started roughly three weeks ago and during that time there have been over ten cats that have passed away as a result of FPL. I toured the facility starting with the healthiest and ending with the sickest cats. During that tour, it was identified that some of the cats have other respiratory issues that are currently under care. The difficult thing with these cats is that they are in non-quarantine or medical areas as there are two separate FPL areas that have restricted access. I am concerned that with the continuous intake of cats to this facility you will not be able to appropriately minimize the spread of FPL as well as decrease or appropriately mitigate the spread or development of any other diseases.

Based on the staff communication they had informed me that all of the cats on the property are vaccinated or have recently been vaccinated in the last two weeks and are awaiting their next booster vaccination. I did however identify three cats in the FPL rooms that the staff was under the impression were too young to be immunized. I encouraged them that they need to be given their first feline combination vaccination today. Based on an evaluation from "far" they appeared to be at least four weeks of age, making them eligible for the vaccination.

It also became apparent that the facility did not have all the necessary medications to address the patient's needs until last night. The facility was out of broad-spectrum antibiotics, which is vital to treat this condition. The medications did arrive last night and I did encourage all of the positive cats to be started on this medication, Clavamox. I also encourage the staff to weigh each of the confirmed positive cats daily to ensure the subcutaneous fluid therapy administration is appropriate. If a patient suffers any sort of weight loss in a 24-hour period it is likely due to dehydration and fluid supplementation should be adjusted. These weights should be recorded on their medical sheets which I reviewed with the team. I identified that the staff while dedicated are understaffed and not fully equipped to handle the number of cats that are in their care. They noted at times it can take far beyond a six-hour period for cats to properly be cared for including fed, provided water, and cleaned enclosures. Not to mention medication administration. As a veterinary professional, this then becomes an animal welfare issue that we must not encourage. The facility does not have an identified area at this time that serves as a quarantine area for all naive admissions which poses a great risk of infection and disease spread. Beyond the scope of this document, we can discuss some further policies and procedures that should be put in place to decrease the incidence of outbreaks in the future.

For immediate action to decrease the spread of disease, I would halt intake to this facility and limit the traffic of individuals to this facility. There is far too much cross contamination and it would be in the best interest of the animals and the morale of the staff to take a pause. I would encourage visitors that only meet the needs for animal care on a day-to-day basis or medical



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care. I would not hold any sort of public events that would encourage additional foot traffic to the facility. It would not be responsible of an organization to encourage cross-contamination within the facility as well as the spread of the virus from that location to a member of the public's home. The cats that are in the care of the facility must receive twice daily Clavamox, daily weight checks, daily subcutaneous fluid administration, and close monitoring. If the patients stop eating, fail to improve, or become more listless I would strongly encourage a complete and thorough veterinary evaluation. Pending that evaluation appropriate recommendations will be made for treatment.

The goals of my recommendations and observations are to decrease the spread of disease, improve animal welfare, and aid the caregivers in not suffering further strain. I would be more than happy to continue to consult and evaluate patients if the parties agree.

Please feel welcome to contact me with further questions or requests.

Respectfully,



Joseph A. D'Abbraccio, DVM