

FIP No Longer Means Goodbye: The Treatment That's Saving Cats' Lives

How breakthrough antivirals transformed a death sentence into a treatable disease

What is FIP? A serious disease caused by a feline coronavirus mutation. While 80-90% of cats in multi-cat homes carry the virus, only a small percentage develop FIP.

Important: Feline Coronavirus is NOT the Same as COVID-19.

While 80–90% of cats in multi-cat environments encounter feline coronavirus during their lives, the vast majority remain healthy carriers. Only a small minority experience the rare mutation that leads to FIP.

Early Signs: Lethargy, low appetite, weight loss, intermittent fevers.

Two forms of FIP

- **Wet (effusive):** fluid in abdomen or chest; bloating or breathing effort
- **Dry (non-effusive):** inflammation of eyes, brain, or organs; harder to spot

The FIP Diagnosis: There's no single test. Veterinarians combine:

- Clinical exam + history
- Bloodwork (protein/inflammation patterns)
- Fluid analysis and/or PCR when fluid is present
- Imaging (often ultrasound); biopsy only in select cases

Can You Prevent FIP? Not completely. Reduce risk: clean litter daily (1 box/cat +1), keep cat groups small & stable, quarantine new cats 2-3 weeks, minimize stress. If FIP is suspected, early treatment can save lives.



BREAKTHROUGH: NEW TREATMENT OPTIONS

FIP was once fatal—today we have hope! While supportive care only eased symptoms temporarily, antivirals like remdesivir and GS-441524 have transformed outcomes since 2021. These life-saving medications are now accessible through compounding pharmacies. Early treatment is everything.

The Kitten Who Beat FIP: Wilson's Journey

Meet Wilson. This tiny 2.2-pound kitten arrived at Malta Animal Hospital in critical condition—struggling to breathe through persistent congestion, eyes cloudy with discharge, facial hair falling out in patches, unable to gain weight despite eating well. After comprehensive testing and specialist consultation, our team diagnosed Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP). For decades, this diagnosis was a death sentence, but Wilson's story was about to change.

A Revolutionary Treatment

Our team immediately started Wilson on GS-441524, an oral antiviral from Stokes Pharmacy that's revolutionized FIP treatment. The transformation was remarkable. Within just 24 hours, Wilson's congestion cleared, his eyes brightened, and he began acting like a playful kitten again.

Wilson's Recovery by the Numbers

- Starting Weight: 2.2 lbs
- Time to First Improvement: 24 hours
- Treatment Duration: 84 days
- Final Weight: 6.4 lbs



A Different Cat

After 84 days of treatment, Wilson transformed from 2.2 to 6.4 pounds—coat gleaming, eyes clear, energy boundless. His owners say, "Every day we're grateful for this miracle drug that saved Wilson's life." Wilson proves FIP is now treatable. Malta Animal Hospital continues to bring these life-saving advances to feline families.

**Could your cat be at risk? If you suspect FIP,
call 518-885-2550 or scan for an appointment.**

