

Here is a list of substitutes to use when someone can't afford to see a vet or if feral cats are involved. I always tell people to consult a vet if at all possible because I am NOT a vet. Rather than let the cat suffer or die, however, these are some options:

Eye ointment for GOOPY EYES: Dr. Sheffield's or DG Triple Antibiotic Ointment (NOT creme) with ONLY these 3 ingredients: Bacitracin, Neomycin Sulfate, and Polyomyxin-B Sulfate. Apply a small bead directly to the eyes twice daily and one day after the eyes are cleared, but not more than 10 days. \$1 at the Dollar Store. Terramycin is available again from www.revivalanimal.com which is the best option as it has a small opening for application.

ROUNDWORMS: Many kittens have roundworms which can cause diarrhea. Use Reese's pinworm meds for humans available at your local drugstore. At 5 weeks of age, use 0.08 mL per pound. A 2 lb kitten will need 0.16 mL (small amount). Use a needleLESS syringe and give orally. Mix in food for ferals. Repeat again in 3-4 weeks to kill the worm cycle. Ingredient: Pyrantel Pamoate. \$10.50 at Walgreen's treats 48 kittens! You can also order a large bottle online for about \$16 (See Revival Animal Health).

TAPEWORMS: Give Droncit pills (Tapeworm Tabs). Read instructions on bottle. Any cat eating mice or sporting fleas should be dewormed with this 2-3 times per year. Break into smaller pieces and put in wet food or use piller. \$13 for a bottle (3 tablets) at D&B Supply will treat 3 10-lb cats. I also discovered, that you can buy the dog version for \$14 and it contains FIVE tablets that treat larger pets. It's the same ingredient, but you'll have to figure out the dosage on your own and break the tablets into smaller portions. You can treat more cats this way! Suggest you grind up the tablet and add to canned food unless you can pill your cat easily.

ALL WORMS: Drontal is the medication used to kill both tapeworms and roundworms. You can buy it online under the brand names Bayer or Biheldon. You can buy Biheldon (shipped from Europe). 30 pills in the package will treat 60 cats, so if you have ferals you want to treat or you want to share with someone, this may be the way to go. Keep in mind, it does take about 2 weeks to ship.

http://pharmacy-group.eu/index.php?route=product/product&product_id=52

GIARDIA: Fenbendazole is available at D&B Supply and called Goat Wormer. Approx. \$20 for a bottle and will treat many small animals. Follow the instructions for amount per pound. To get the complete cycle, you'll need to give wormer for 4-5 days in a row. Giardia is oftentimes the cause of diarrhea if a cat is otherwise healthy. If in doubt, always seek the advice of a veterinarian.

ANTIBIOTICS (ferals) for upper respiratory or minor wounds: Use Agrimycin-343 (yellow powder) formulated for livestock, but some vets will prescribe it for you. Mix a "pinch" of powder with canned food once a day for 7-10 days. Sneezing is a viral cold that won't respond to antibiotics, so let it run its course. If the cat becomes more sickly with difficulty breathing, the pneumonia can kill the cat. Step it up with Agrimycin or Penicillin-G (not for cows). Sometimes you may need a stronger or different antibiotic. Please consult a vet before the URI becomes chronic. Do not use oxytetracycline after the expiration date on the label has passed since it can cause a dangerous syndrome resulting in damage to the kidneys.

ANTIBIOTICS (tame cats) for upper respiratory and panleukopenia, use Agri-cillin (available at D&B Supply...NOT the one for cattle) 0.01mL per 1 lb. one time on days 1, 2, 4, 6...and if necessary on day 8. Use a size 20 needle with a 1cc syringe. You will need to give fluids if the cat has a bad case of URI. They

will need fluids if they are not drinking water and/or have diarrhea. You can buy the fluids from a vet or online. Give subcutaneously between the shoulder blades using a size 22 needle.

RINGWORM: A black light is useful for finding where the cat is infected. These can be purchased at pet stores. Ringworm is not fun, but it's not the worst thing in the world either. It is transferrable to humans, so you may want to take care handling the cat or kitten. If you do get it, it's not a big deal. I don't bother to separate my pets, but you may wish to if you have the space. Lyme dip is available from the vet or you can buy a tube of Lotrimin cream from Walmart for \$3 to treat the infected areas twice a day. Ringworm can last a month or more even with treatment, but it is not a death sentence. Patience is required.

FLEAS: For immediate relief, purchase a package of topical flea killer such as Stronghold. Stronghold is the international name for Revolution. Plan for extra shipping time, but no Rx needed.

<https://www.worldpetexpress.net> or

https://www.vetmeds4pets.uk/product_info.php?manufacturers_id=20&products_id=206

If I'm treating kittens, I buy the large dog (teal) formula (to save money) and use one vial to Measure and treat 4 cats based on their weight. Read instructions carefully! Be very careful with topical flea products. Do NOT use dog medications on cats. Doing so can be fatal. If you have one flea, you probably have many!

Capstar is what I use when I find a cat that has a flea problem. It's cheaper at the online stores listed above, but is also available in local pet stores.

Sprinkle Borax laundry additive or diatomaceous Earth on carpeted areas and pet bedding. Be sure to brush in the powder using a broom. It can take up to 3 weeks before you see results, but the larvae from the adult fleas will feed on the powder and dry up, interrupting the flea reproduction cycle. This works for up to a year, but may reapply every 6 months. For more information, Google boric acid as a pesticide. It's non-toxic, so much safer than flea bombs and other chemicals. \$5-7 from Fred Meyer or other grocery store. Sprinkle in outside areas in dry weather.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/boric_acid

The best choice since it's granular and falls down into the carpet easier:

<http://www.pestproducts.com/fleapowder.htm>

OTHER SUPPLIES:

It's a good idea to have supplies on hand if you do cat rescue. It's a good idea to stock size 22, 20, and 18 needles. If you only buy one, I'd suggest size 20. You will also use 1 ml, 3 ml, and 12 ml syringes, with the 1 ml being the most useful for accurately measuring small amounts. I like having IV fluids on hand as well to assist cats that are dehydrated. Dehydration will kill cats, so fluids are a must have on hand.

ABOUT DECLAWING AND WHY YOU SHOULDN'T

<http://www.declawing.com>

<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/cats/tips/declawing.html>

Get cats a tall scratching post. Scratching is natural and necessary for the health of the cat. If you can't tolerate scratching, don't get a cat.

BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS? CATS ON THE COUNTER? ODORS?

Multivet's new patented Ssscat device is a positive method to controlling your cat's territory and behavioral problems available on Amazon.com.

Woolite Pet Odor Remover is available at Fred Meyer (and other stores). I found it in the laundry section, not the pet section. It's cheaper than Urine Off and some other products in the pet aisle.

Bye Bye Odor concentrated liquid to use on pet urine.\$20 for a 4oz. bottle of concentrate that makes 2.5 gallons of the mixture. <http://www.spauldinglaboratories.com>

I use Angry Orange concentrate to wipe out urine odors. AO breaks down the urine crystals instead of masking the smell. Available online.

Hope this helps. Again, I'm not a vet, so use at your own risk.