

nor is every case of oral ulceration caused by FCV. For example, our old friend feline herpesvirus can cause severe oral ulcers, although this is seen less commonly than with FCV. Incorrectly diluted quaternary ammonium and phenol disinfectants can also cause severe oral ulceration, respiratory signs, pneumonia and death – this can look an awful lot like a calicivirus outbreak, as multiple cats are often affected.

Example: The lesions on tongue A were caused by feline calicivirus, on tongue B by quaternary ammonium toxicity, and on tongue C by feline herpesvirus. The moral of the story? Oral ulcers do not equal FCV!

A.



B.



C.



Virulent systemic calicivirus often starts with similar signs to other field strain caliciviral infection, such as oral ulceration, fever, and limping. However, by definition VS-FCV is characterized by progression in some cats to more severe disease, including vasculitis leading to marked edema and/or extensive hair loss, oozing and ulceration of the skin. See table two for characteristics suggestive of VS-FCV versus field strain FCV infection.

Example: Marked facial edema and extensive hair loss, oozing and ulceration of the skin in two cats affected by VS-FCV. Less virulent strains can cause slight crusting on the muzzle and feet.