

## Congenital and Early Developmental Abnormalities in Kittens: A Practical Approach

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The Celtic Cat, LLC: *Helping You Help Them*

### **Neonatal Ophthalmia**

1. An eye infection that occurs within the first few weeks of life.
2. Most common causes are Chlamydia felis, FHV-1 or bacterial contaminants.
3. Eyelids MUST be opened.
4. Warm compress attempted first, then digital pressure or hemostats.
5. Saline flush, fluorescein stain, and topical treatment with Tobramycin or Erythromycin TID. Consider Amoxicillin 0.1mg/lb.

### **Cleft Palate**

1. A congenital defect; an abnormal opening between the oral and nasal cavities.
2. Main etiology: Genetics
3. Breed Predilection: Siamese
4. Primary cleft palate is mainly cosmetic and rarely causes any complications.
5. Secondary Cleft Palate requires surgical correction and intensive management such as tube feeding until surgery can be performed at 8-24 weeks of age.

### **Umbilical Hernia**

1. A bulging of tissue or internal organs in the area of the umbilicus.
2. Breed Predilection: Cornish Rex
3. While small hernia correction can be delayed until time of spay/neuter, in rare instances a hernial contents will become strangulated and becomes an emergency.
4. Hernial ring should be surgically extended prior to closure.
4. Remember pre and post-op pain control!

#### NSAID

Meloxicam (Metacam)

Injection 0.2mg/kg SC prior to surgery

Followed with 0.05mg/kg PO SID 4 days

Robenacoxib (Onsior)

Injection 2mg/kg SC 30 minutes prior to surgery

Followed with 1 tablet per 2.5-6kg kitten SID 2 days

#### Opioid

Buprenorphine, Long acting (Simbadol)

Injection 0.24mg/kg SC 60 minutes prior to surgery