Differences Between Herpes (Rhinotracheitis) and Calici

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Feline viral rhinotracheitis (FVR) and Feline calicivirus, (FCV) are both viral diseases in Cats.

Characteristic	Feline Rhinotracheitis Virus	Calicivirus
Incubation period	2-17 days	1-14 days
Duration of illness	2-4 weeks	1-2 weeks
Nasal signs	Sneezing common; nasal discharge	Nasal discharge; sneezing uncommon
Effects on the eye	Conjunctivitis; discharge; sometimes corneal ulcers	Discharge
Mouth lesions	Drooling; ulcers are rare	Oral ulcers common; can cause chronic gingivitis
Pneumonia	Rare	Common
Effect on reproduction	Abortion	None
Signs of limping	None	Joint and muscle pain can occur; may develop ulcers on paws
Fever	Common	Inconsistent
Loss of appetite	Severe	Mild
Depression	Common and severe	Mild
Carrier state*	Intermittent; occurs after stress	Continual for years
Survival in environment	Less than 24 hours	8-10 days
Susceptibility to disinfectants	Susceptible to common disinfectants	Not as susceptible; use a 1:32 dilution of household bleach
*A 'carrier' is a cat who continues to harbor the virus but does not show any signs of the disease.		

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