NASAL DISCHARGE IN CATS
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Acute signs (<3 weeks)

CHRONIC OR ACUTE SIGNS OF NASAL DISCHARGE

DIAGNOSIS
- Structural disease (eg, neoplasia, mycotic or dental disease)
- Less likely: systemic disease, coagulopathy, hypertension

NEXT STEPS
- Systemic workup (eg, blood pressure, CBC, serum chemistry profile, coagulation profile)
- Advanced imaging/diagnostics

DIAGNOSIS
- Infectious rhinitis (bacterial, viral)
- Secondary infection
- Neoplasia
- Less likely: foreign body

NEXT STEPS
- Supportive care
- +/- Empirical antibiotics
- Nasal flushing
- +/- Nasal culture

DIAGNOSIS
- Foreign body
- Infectious rhinitis

NEXT STEPS
- Saline hydropulsion
- Advanced imaging/diagnostics
- +/- Antibiotics if infectious

DIAGNOSIS
- Dental disease
- Less likely (acute nature): destructive rhinitis (mycotic, chronic viral, immune-mediated)
- Neoplasia

NEXT STEPS
- Dentistry (localized pain to teeth)
- Cryptococcal LCAT
- Radiography (dental, nasal)
- Advanced imaging/diagnostics

DIAGNOSIS
- Viral rhinitis (FHV-1, feline calicivirus)

NEXT STEPS
- Infectious disease testing (PCR)
- Supportive care (eg, hydration, antipyretics)
- Antiviral therapy (eg, L-lysine, famciclovir, polyprenyl immunostimulant, intranasal vaccine)

DIAGNOSIS
- Serous/serohemorrhagic

NEXT STEPS
- Viral PCR testing (FHV-1, feline calicivirus)
- Supportive care (eg, hydration, antipyretics, appetite stimulants)
- Antiviral therapy (eg, L-lysine, famciclovir, polyprenyl immunostimulant, intranasal vaccine)
- Antihistamine trials

DIAGNOSIS
- Nasopharyngitis
- Nasopharyngeal stenosis
- Nasal/nasopharyngeal foreign body

NEXT STEPS
- Sedated nasopharyngeal exam
- Saline hydropulsion
- +/- Antibiotics
- Advanced imaging/diagnostics

DIAGNOSIS
- <1 year: nasopharyngeal polyp
- >5 years: neoplasia

NEXT STEPS
- Cryptococcal LCAT
- Advanced imaging/diagnostics

DIAGNOSIS
- Neoplasia
- Myotic disease

FHV-1 = feline herpesvirus-1
FNA = fine-needle aspiration
LCAT = latex cryptococcal agglutination test
LSA = lymphosarcoma
PCR = polymerase chain reaction