

MINIMIZING THE RISK

The prognosis for feline lung diseases varies depending on the nature of the condition, the extent of its progression, and the treatments that are available for it. On the bright side, Dr. Richard Goldstein points out that most cases of respiratory distress are caused by either asthma or pleural effusion, and the success rate of emergency treatment for those two ailments is “pretty good.”

Dr. Goldstein urges cat owners to have their animals undergo a yearly medical checkup that includes a thorough exam of its entire respiratory system. Fecal examinations should also be done periodically, and cats should be dewormed as needed.

In addition, he suggests that owners keep the air in their homes as clean as possible, free of potential allergens such as dust, mold and smoke.

“And all cat owners should be aware of the signs of respiratory distress,” he adds. “The earlier these signs are picked up on, the better.”