



# FACTS ABOUT FELINE LEUKEMIA AND FIV

## Feline Leukemia:

1. Feline Leukemia is a form of CANCER caused by a virus! It may affect the blood, internal organs, or form tumors.
2. Feline Leukemia is HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS from cat to cat. It may be spread by licking, sneezing, fighting, sharing food bowls, or sharing litter pans.
3. It is estimated that 30% of all stray cats are infected today.
4. It is one of the MAJOR causes of death in cats today.
5. It primarily affects the cat by DECREASING THE RESISTANCE of the cat to other diseases. It acts very similar to the AIDS VIRUS in humans.
6. Diagnosis is made by clinical signs and a blood test.
7. There is NO SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT! Prognosis for survival beyond 2 years is grave.
8. The virus does NOT live outside the cat's body.
9. Due to the seriousness of this disease, we HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT ALL CATS be vaccinated! Once the disease is contracted there is NO cure!
10. Research evidence to date shows NO possibility that Feline Leukemia is transmissible to humans.

## FIV (Feline Immune Deficiency Virus):

1. Similar to the Human AIDS virus. There is no evidence to indicate that the disease is transmittable to humans. Cat owners should not be concerned that their cats could expose them to human AIDS.
2. The virus is seen in 3-4% of cats (unlike the leukemia virus) and blood samples from all over the U.S. have tested positive. The disease is "nationwide."
3. Although similar to Feline Leukemia Virus, cats infected with FIV do not test positive for leukemia. There is a specific test available to screen for FIV. It is reliable and requires only a small amount of blood.
4. While studies have shown that FIV does not affect survival times compared to healthy cats, it is still felt that FIV-positive cats should be considered at higher risk for infection.

## Why Should My Cat Be Tested

Although there is no cure, early detection of infection will not only maintain the health of your own pet, but also allow you to prevent the spreading of the disease to other cats.

## When should my cat be tested

1. If your cat has never been tested before.
2. If your cat is sick, even if it may have been tested free of infection in the past.
3. When cats are newly adopted, whether or not they will be entering a household with other cats.
4. If your cat has been exposed to an infected cat
5. If your cat has been exposed to cats that may be infected (After being in contact or bitten)
6. When your cat reaches seven years of age.

