



METRO NASHVILLE
ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

This cat has tested positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) on a blood test. FIV is a virus similar to HIV in humans; however, FIV is not contagious to people or dogs. Cats with FIV can live long, healthy lives when adequate preventive care is provided.

- FIV is transmitted through deep bite wounds from another cat. It is most commonly found in outdoor intact male cats.
- FIV infection is diagnosed using a blood test that detects antibodies to the virus. If a cat was previously vaccinated against FIV (not a common vaccine), the cat will also test positive for the virus.
- FIV is not easily passed between cats – it cannot be spread through casual contact (shared litterboxes, food and water bowls, snuggling or playing). FIV positive cats can live with other cats provided they do not fight.
- Introduction of an FIV positive cat to a household with FIV negative cats poses a moderate risk of disease transmission if the cats do not get along. FIV is not very durable in the environment. It is inactivated by most commonly used disinfectants.
- There is no cure for FIV, and the virus can suppress the cat's immune system slowly over time. FIV cats are more vulnerable to infections; therefore, they should live indoors and receive routine preventive health care with annual veterinary exams.
- Some infected cats will develop secondary conditions such as oral disease, and can be more susceptible to infections, especially if allowed outdoors where they are vulnerable to injury and contact with other cats.
- Management of FIV cats includes providing high-quality nutrition (no raw diets), preventing stress, and providing routine veterinary care and parasite prevention.
- FIV cats most often live long, healthy and relatively normal lives with no symptoms at all.

Please carefully consider the responsibility involved in adopting an FIV positive cat. These cats can be wonderful companions and live long healthy lives!

For more information about FIV, please visit:

[http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/Health Information/brochure_fiv.cfm](http://www.vet.cornell.edu/fhc/Health%20Information/brochure_fiv.cfm)