

## Feline Immunodeficiency Virus and Feline Leukemia Virus

We recommend that all kittens and new cats to a household should be tested for both Feline Leukemia Virus (FELV) and FIV( Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). Outdoor cats should be tested multiple times throughout their life time and cats with evidence of a bite wound/fight marks should be tested annually. There is a FELV vaccine available for cats with a high risk life style but there is no vaccine available for FIV.

### Feline Immunodeficiency Virus ( FIV)

Feline immunodeficiency virus typically results from a bite wound from an infected animals. Outdoor cats, especially intact males are more likely to be infected due to the higher chances of fighting. The virus acts similar to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and attacked and decreased the T-cells, a type of white blood cell. Patients with FIV can have a higher risk of infection and cancer. Patients typically pass away from complications related to the virus and this is a non curable disease.

### Feline Leukemia Virus ( FeLV)

Feline Leukemia Virus is typically transmitted by prolonged contact with body secretions such as saliva. Typically cats need to spend a lot of time together grooming each other or sharing water and food dishes to become infected. The virus can cause problems such as low red blood cells ( anemia), low platelets ( thrombocytopenia), and leukemia(cancer). Patients typically pass away from complications related to the virus and this is a non curable disease.