



FIV in Cats

What is FIV?

FIV stands for feline immunodeficiency virus and is the same class of virus as HIV. FIV is a retrovirus that typically causes a weakening of the cat's immune system.

Can I get FIV from a cat?

No. FIV is a species specific virus which means that it only impacts cats.

What are the symptoms of FIV?

There are not specific symptoms associated with FIV. Because FIV positive cats have a weaker immune system, they are more prone to getting infections (like upper respiratory) than FIV negative cats. Other than that, FIV positive cats tend to live normal lives with normal lengths of life.

How do cats get FIV?

FIV is mainly passed from cat to cat through a deep bite wound from an FIV positive cat to another cat. Although rare, it can also be transmitted via blood from the milk of an infected mother. In fact, many FIV positive cats and FIV negative cats live together in the same home for years without spreading the virus to non-infected cats!

Does an FIV positive cat require special care?

Not really. It is important to monitor an FIV positive cat a bit more closely to identify any signs of illness. It is especially important that a cat with FIV is fed a high quality diet and sees a veterinarian regularly.



I'm FIV+

5-2023-FIV in Cats