

What to do if your cat is FIV positive?

Finding out your cat is FIV positive can be devastating news. There are things you can do to enable your cat to have the best quality of life he or she can;

- Keep your cat inside full-time. Doing this will not only keep your cat safe, but protect others from contracting the virus as well.
- At the first sign of illness, consult your veterinarian so that they can treat the symptoms and preserve your cat's quality of life as much as possible.

Unfortunately in some cases, you may feel you have to make a different decision such as the one made in the case below.



It was awful for us to find out that our best friend 'Mickey' who had been part of our family for many years, was so sick and having trouble eating because of the pain in his mouth. He lost so much weight and was just not himself. He had contracted FIV and when we found out we may have been able to prevent it with vaccination, but had not been offered the opportunity, we felt very sad and powerless to help him."

As 'Mickey' was suffering so badly from the disease, his owners made the very difficult decision to end his pain and sadly he was euthanased.

Don't let FIV take your cat from you unnecessarily. Seriously consider vaccination as a method of prevention.

Fel-O-Vax[®] FIV Vaccine

AIDS in Protection

Protect your cat from

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

> Their health and wellbeing depends on you.



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Is your precious cat at risk of contracting FIV?

How would my cat get infected with FIV?

The FIV virus is transmitted during a cat fight through biting. Every time your cat goes outside it may be potentially at risk of being bitten by an already infected cat. If your cat is unvaccinated, it could be at risk.

What happens next?

If bitten, the virus remains with your cat for life and gradually decreases its immunity. Later on, this progression known as feline AIDS, can lead to an increase in infections and some types of cancer. As the underlying disease progresses, their appetite decreases and their body condition deteriorates.

Cats that develop disease caused by infection with FIV have a vastly decreased quality of life and suffer pain and discomfort needlessly.

Sadly, your cat may die from one of these subsequent infections or diseases.



How prevalent is FIV in New Zealand?

FIV is a common virus found in many areas of New Zealand.



- Anecdotal reports from the Wellington SPCA revealed 14 - 16%² of cats tested at the shelter were FIV positive.
- Some NZ veterinarians surveyed in 2013, reported that they found up to 70% of sick cats tested were positive to FIV.

Infection with this virus may lead to the development of feline Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

References:

1. Published peer reviewed papers on file
2. IDEXX Reference Laboratory data on file
3. Data on file

How do I prevent my cat from contracting FIV?

There is no known cure should your cat contract the FIV virus. The best chance of protection is to keep your cat inside full time. However, if your cat loves to explore the outdoors, then a vaccine is available from your veterinarian to help protect them.

Please discuss your cat's vaccination needs with your family veterinary practitioner to see if FIV vaccination is recommended for your cat.

What do I need to know about FIV vaccination?

Kitten and adult cats have different vaccination schedules.

Kittens require a course of 3 shots, from 8 weeks of age, each given 2 - 4 weeks apart. These shots can be administered at the same time as they receive their feline parvovirus and cat flu vaccination.

Previously unvaccinated adult cats, first need to be tested before vaccination can be given. If your cat's test has come back negative, then a course of 3 shots given 2 - 4 weeks apart can then go ahead.

Every cat needs an annual booster shot to remain protected against the FIV virus. It's important not to let these vaccinations lapse. If overdue your cat may need to repeat a full course of vaccinations to reinstate their protection.