

What Is FIV?

(Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)

FIV is a lentivirus, a slow-progressing virus that can compromise a cat's immune system, reducing its ability to fight off illnesses. The virus has a long latent then progresses so slowly that it may never affect a cats

- FIV cats can live just as long and as healthy as Non-FIV cats and ultimately die of the same causes as Non-FIV cats.
- The virus cannot be passed to humans or other animals.
- FIV cats can live with other non-aggressive cats without spreading the virus.
- FIV is transmitted primarily through a deep bite where the virus is injected directly into the bloodstream of the Non-FIV cat. Bites of this kind are extremely rare, except in free-roaming, un-neutered tomcats.
- The virus is weak and cannot live outside the cat's body for long and is killed by light, air, heat, and household disinfectants.
- Casual behaviors do not pass the virus. (e.g., shared food or water dishes or toys, mutual grooming, snuggling, mock fighting, shared litter boxes, scratches, not even sneezes.)
- F/V cats need the same care all cats need-a quality diet (the best you can afford), live in a safe environment (indoor and/or outdoor cat-proofed area), regular Vet exams, treat any health problems as they arise, and LOVE.



