

FIV/FeLV



Feline Immunodeficiency Virus/ Feline Leukemia Virus

FIV and FeLV are both contagious, and untreatable diseases that affect cats. All cats that are allowed outdoors are at increased risk for both of these diseases.



FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that is spread through the saliva of an infected cat, either through social behaviors (grooming, sharing food dishes) or fight wounds, more commonly. It has some similarities to the human immunodeficiency virus, in that it causes illness by attacking the cat's immune system. Clinical signs associated with FIV are generally non-specific, as they are usually due to secondary infections and not the disease itself.

FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) is a virus among cats that is spread through contact with infected saliva. As well, kittens may become infected during fetal development or during the first few days of life as their mothers nurse and care for them.

Symptoms of both FIV and FeLV are similar and can include fever, lethargy, chronic respiratory infections, and chronic dental/oral/gum disease.

Who should be tested for these diseases?

- All kittens with an unknown history
- All kittens with an unknown history that are entering a home where other cats are living
- All cats presenting with a fever of unknown origin

How do we run the test?

FIV/FeLV tests are completed in our in-house laboratory at Glanbrook Veterinary Services. We will collect a small sample of blood from your cat. A few drops are placed in small "snap" test. The test only takes 8 minutes before we have a result. These tests are now run before every feline spay/neuter/declaw, in our effort to place you and your pet's health, as our top priority.

If your cat is FIV or FeLV positive, this does not necessarily mean that your cat has a poor prognosis. Moving forward, we will be monitoring your pet more closely for secondary infections, parasites, wounds, and dental disease which may make your cat sicker and potentially shorten their life.

If your cat is negative, you may protect your cat from these diseases in the future, through vaccination. FeLV is part of our kitten vaccine program at Glanbrook Veterinary Services. All kittens are vaccinated at 9-12 weeks, and again at 13-16 weeks for FeLV. Vaccination may or may not be boosted at his/her next annual visit, depending on the lifestyle that they are maintaining.

