

A Cat Owner's Guide:

Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FeLV and FIV)



What are FeLV and FIV?

Cats are susceptible to a range of infectious diseases, just like humans are. Two of the most common diseases can often go undetected:

- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)
- Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)

FIV is a slow-acting virus that can severely weaken a cat's immune system. Cats with FIV may not show clinical signs until years after initial infection, making blood tests essential for early detection.

FeLV is a virus that suppresses a cat's immune system, which can lead to a wide range of clinical signs, such as cancer or blood disorders.

Transmission of FeLV and FIV







FIV is found in the blood and saliva of infected cats and is transmitted from cat to cat through bites (as a result of fighting) or more rarely, from an infected mother cat to her kittens.

FeLV can be transmitted through the saliva, feces, urine, or milk of an infected cat. It is most commonly transmitted through activities such as grooming, licking, biting, or sharing of food or litter trays. FeLV can also be passed directly from an infected mother to her kittens before birth or during nursing.

Clinical Diagnostic Testing

If a routine check-up indicates signs of one of these infections, your veterinarian will likely carry out diagnostic tests such as blood panels to gain a better picture. The earlier a disease is detected, the sooner your cat's health can be managed. All kittens and newly acquired cats should be screened for both FIV and FeLV.

Your veterinarian may recommend some or all of the following diagnostic tests as part of your cat's routine check-up, or if your cat's symptoms indicate one of these infections.

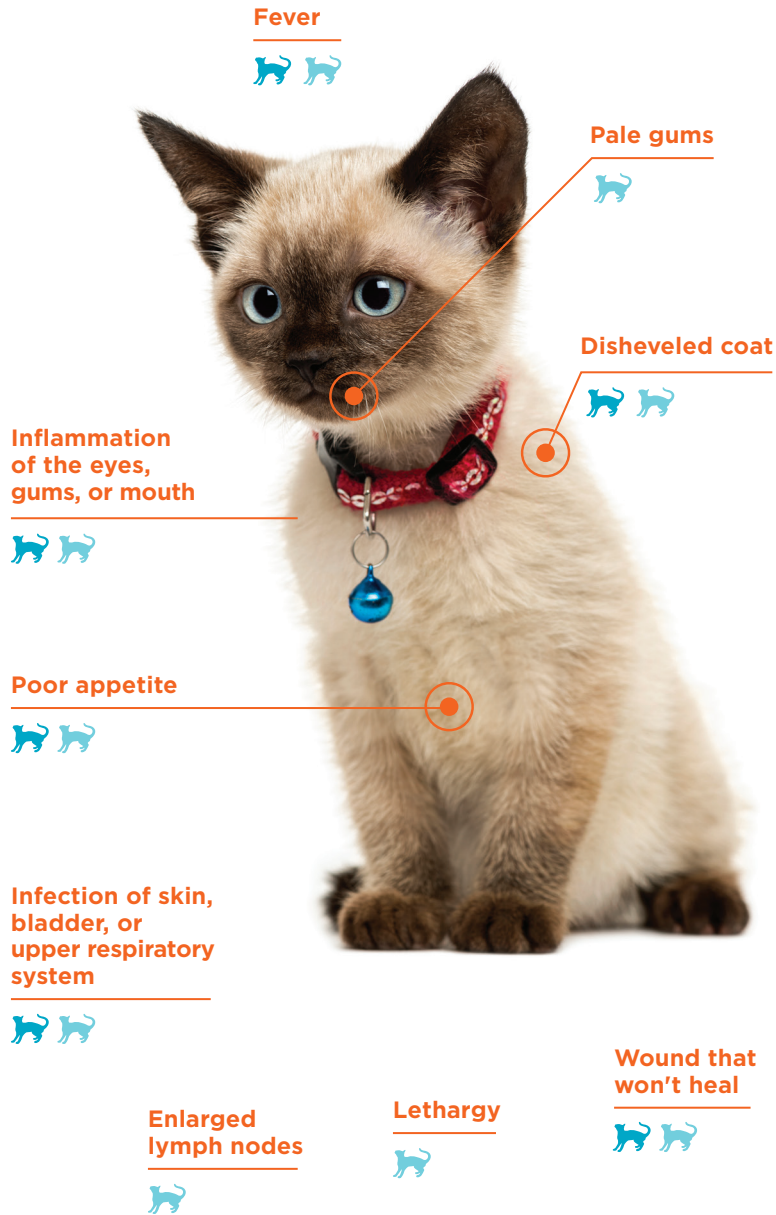
	Chemistry Panel Provides information on many blood parameters, including electrolytes, kidney values, and liver enzymes.
	Complete Blood Count (CBC) Provides information on red and white blood cell counts and platelets. Levels can be affected by infection with FIV or FeLV.
	Urinalysis Provides information on urine concentration, content, and kidney health.
	Urine Culture Tests for urinary tract infection.
	Imaging Evaluates internal organs through X-rays or ultrasound.
	Infectious Disease Testing Screens for retroviral diseases, including Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) and Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)



Clinical Signs of FeLV and FIV

Key Chart

 FIV  FeLV



Prevention of FeLV and FIV

There are vaccines approved to prevent FeLV—unfortunately there is currently no vaccine for FIV. Vaccination against FeLV is recommended for all kittens and at-risk cats. While preventative measures should be taken to protect your at-risk cats against FIV, kittens and cats that have access to the outdoors are the ones at highest risk of contracting these viruses. Consult with your veterinarian to determine if your cat is a candidate for vaccination.

Treating FeLV and FIV

While there is no cure for FeLV or FIV, treatments are available that help minimize the secondary effects of both viruses.

These treatments can include:

- Medication for secondary infections
- Diet recommendations
- Anti-inflammatory or immune-enhancing drugs
- Parasite control

Your veterinarian will talk with you about treatments to help minimize the signs and prevent secondary infections and diseases associated with FIV and FeLV.

Cats that have contracted either FeLV or FIV need to remain indoors and should be neutered or spayed.





Ask Your Veterinarian About Diagnostic Testing for Your Cat

Your veterinarian will be able to detect issues earlier and treat them sooner with simple diagnostic testing designed for your cat. Diagnostic testing is also used to establish a biometric baseline to closely monitor your cat's health.

This clinic uses Zoetis diagnostics to aid in the evaluation of your cat's health.

Schedule Regular Visits

Routine visits with your veterinarian are the perfect time for you to ask medical questions, track behavioral and weight changes, and receive tips for at-home care.

Some topics that may be covered during your visit include:

- Behavior
- Environment
- Elimination
- Nutrition
- Oral health
- Parasite control
- Vaccination
- Diagnostic testing

SCHEDULE YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT TODAY!

ZOETIS PETCARE

Follow @zoetispetcare  

All trademarks are the property of Zoetis Services LLC or a related company or a licensor unless otherwise noted.

© 2021 Zoetis Services LLC. All rights reserved. DIA-00395.

zoetispetcare.com