

CATS AND KITTENS: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)



FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus) is a virus that only affects cats. FIV weakens the cat's immune system and makes them susceptible to secondary infections. FIV can make it difficult for a cat to fight off infection. With proper care and regular veterinarian visits, FIV positive cats can still live long, happy lives. About 2% of the feline population in the United States is infected. Many cats are found to be positive without their owners knowing because they remain symptom free.

How is FIV spread?

FIV is usually spread by deep bite wounds. Casual contact between cats does not spread the virus. A cat cannot contract FIV from simply being around an FIV positive cat or from a person who touched an FIV positive cat. FIV cannot be transmitted to humans or other species.

Can FIV positive and FIV negative cats live together?

There is controversy over whether FIV positive and FIV negative cats should live in the same household together. In a household where cats do not fight, it is rare for a cat to give FIV to their housemate. HSPPR fully supports FIV positive and FIV negative cats living together provided they get along.

Are FIV positive cats adoptable?

Cats with FIV can still live long, happy lives with proper care. You should keep your FIV positive cat indoors, both to minimize exposure to things that can cause infection and to prevent your pet from spreading FIV to outdoor cats. It is important to take

your cat to the veterinarian regularly so any diseases can be detected and treated early on. If your cat gets sick, they will likely need medication prescribed by your veterinarian.

If you have additional questions, please contact your regular veterinarian.

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