What's next?

Thanks for bringing in to see us. We performed a test that detects antigen to feline leukemia virus (FeLV).

We want you to know that tested positive for FeLV antigen. Let's talk about what's next.

Test results

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) detected

tested positive for FeLV. FeLV is transmitted through the saliva, feces, milk, and urine of infected cats—most commonly through saliva. It can be spread by close contact, grooming, licking, biting, shared food/water bowls, and shared litter boxes. A FeLV-positive mother can transfer it to her kittens during pregnancy or nursing. While there is no cure for FeLV, we can manage with routine exams and testing to control the risk of disease development or progression.

We are here to help, so call us if you have questions.

In good health,

Your friends at

Next steps: We have a plan!

Finding out has a positive result can be concerning. While there is no cure for FeLV, we can work together to keep your cat as healthy as possible.

Step 1: What does this mean?

+ Cats with FeLV can have different types of symptoms. And some cats never show symptoms at all.
+ Nonspecific symptoms, such as fever, lethargy, decreased appetite, weight loss, dull coat, and pale gums, may develop.
+ FeLV-positive cats are at a higher risk of FeLV-associated diseases, such as anemia, other types of infection (respiratory infection, stomatitis, FIV), cancer and other diseases of the bone marrow, reproductive disorders, and fading kitten syndrome.
+ Rest assured, cannot directly transmit FeLV to humans, dogs, or other animals. However, **can** transmit FeLV to other cats.
+ Other cats in your household should be tested and vaccinated regularly for FeLV.

Step 2: Does this change anything for ?

+ should be kept indoors to prevent the spread of FeLV and reduce their exposure to other infections.
+ It is important to provide with a good-quality diet. Raw diets should be avoided.
+ If you have multiple cats in the household, separate the FeLV-positive cats from those that are negative.
+ All cats in your household should be spayed/neutered to prevent the spread of the infection to future generations.

Step 3: How do we keep as healthy as possible?

Regular preventive care is very important for cats with FeLV. We'd like to see every 6 months for a wellness exam. We will perform a thorough exam, administer vaccines, and advise on possible testing. Tests may include the following:

+ Complete blood count
+ Biochemical profile
+ Urinalysis
+ Parasite screening

This information is provided for educational purposes only and is being provided to you at the request of the attending veterinarian at the veterinary hospital indicated above.

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