What's next?

Thanks for bringing in to see us. We performed a test that detects specific antibodies to feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV).

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

Test results

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) detected

tested positive for antibodies to FIV. This virus is most commonly transmitted through bite wounds or scratches from other FIV-positive cats. While there is no cure for FIV, cats can live a long and healthy life with proper veterinary care to help control progression of the disease. FIV is species specific, meaning it cannot be transmitted from cats to dogs or humans.

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 FIV, many cats with FIV live long healthy lives. Together, we can help manage symptoms and keep your cat as healthy as possible.

Step 1: How is FIV spread?

+ was infected by another cat with FIV, commonly through a bite or scratch. And because antibodies to FIV were found in the blood sample, this indicates an infection.
+ Rest assured, cannot directly transmit FIV to you or your family. However, **can** transmit FIV to other cats.
+ should be kept indoors to prevent the spread of FIV and reduce their exposure to other infections.

Step 2: How can we keep as healthy as possible?

+ may not display signs of the virus. Usually, cats with FIV only show mild symptoms when first infected. Over time, the virus may cause lethargy, fever, and a decrease in appetite. And when FIV is active, it can weaken the immune system—putting at risk for other types of infections.
+ Stress can cause the virus to become active. Make sure your house is a low-stress environment to decrease this risk.
+ It is important to provide with a good-quality diet. Raw diets should be avoided.

Step 3: What can I do next?

Regular preventive care is very important for cats with FIV. 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.

© 2024 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. All rights reserved. • 09-2691043-00 • The IDEXX Privacy Policy is available at idexx.com. All ®/™ marks are owned by IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. or its affiliates in the United States and/or other countries.