



FeLV Information Sheet

- FeLV can and does affect 2-3% of the feline population in the United States
- Feline only virus so it is not transmittable to humans or other species.
- Prevalent in cats that live outside and are not up to date on vaccines and in good health.
- Highly contagious to other cats through general grooming, shared food dishes, litter boxes.
- Kittens that test positive at a young age should be retested after they reach the age of 6 months to see if they were able to build antibodies to fight the virus.
- The virus cannot survive outside the body of the cat for more than a few hours, unless in a moist environment such as a water dish.
- FeLV cats should be the only pet cat in the home or living with other FeLV positive cats due to the virus being highly contagious.
- Cats with FeLV should be strictly indoor cats to avoid spreading the virus to other cats.
- Many FeLV cats that make it past the first year of life without any illnesses can live normal lives for a few years as long as they remain in good health.
- The virus attacks the immune system and can cause severe anemia known as Feline Infectious Anemia (FIA) causing the cat to be lethargic.
- Most important thing to remember with FeLV cats is at the first sign of a cold or illness, seek medical attention to catch the virus before it take holds!

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