

FIV+ INFORMATION



**Aurora
Animal
Shelter**

WHAT IS FIV?

FIV stands for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. FIV reduces the ability of the cat's immune system in response to infections. Cats with FIV can have infections which become prolonged, chronic, or reoccurring. This virus can lead to clinical symptoms resulting in deficiency of the cat's immune system. Some cats can live with FIV symptom free, while others can experience a wide variety of symptoms throughout their lifetime. Cats with FIV will have the virus for their lifetimes, as there is not a cure. These cats are still wonderful animals looking for a home, they will just need a heightened awareness to their health and wellbeing.

HOW DO CATS TRANSMIT FIV TO OTHER CATS?

Infected cats carry the virus in their saliva. FIV is transmitted through an infected cat deeply biting another cat.

CAN FIV BE TRANSMITTED TO HUMANS?

Absolutely not! FIV is cat species specific, therefore, you will not be able to contract the disease. FIV is only transmissible between cats.

I OWN A CAT WHO IS NOT FIV+. CAN I ADOPT A FIV+ CAT?

Yes! Cats who are and are not FIV+ can live in the same home without ever communicating the virus between them! As FIV is only transmitted through bites, preventing fights between cats

in the home is the most important way to keep the disease from being transmitted. FIV cannot be transmitted between cats through grooming, scratching, sniffing or sharing a litterbox.

WHAT STEPS SHOULD I TAKE TO ENSURE MY FIV+ CAT STAYS HEALTHY?

FIV+ cats should be kept indoors only. This is important for their health as well as to minimize the potential for other cats at risk for catching the disease. It is important that FIV+ cat has a regular veterinarian. Be sure to discuss the animal's condition with the vet and to take your cat to veterinary appointments to ensure that they remain happy and healthy! It is recommended to schedule veterinary appointments at least once a year for them to receive an overall health and wellness exam.

SYMPTOMS AN FIV+ CAN EXPERIENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME INCLUDE:

- Gingivitis
- Stomatitis
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss
- Inflammation
- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea



If you suspect your cat to be FIV+, talk to your veterinarian. Tests are needed to confirm the animal has the virus. The Aurora Animal Shelter has tested and confirmed that this cat has tested positive for FIV.