

What's next?

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

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

Test results



Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) detected

[cat name] 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 [cat name] 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?

- + [cat name] 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, [cat name] cannot directly transmit FIV to you or your family. However, [cat name] **can** transmit FIV to other cats.
- + [cat name] should be kept indoors to prevent the spread of FIV and reduce their exposure to other infections.

Step 2: How can we keep [cat name] as healthy as possible?

- + [cat name] 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 [cat name] 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 [cat name] 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 [cat name] 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