

Our Locations

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604 985 0454

DEEP COVE

1018 Deep Cove Road
604 929 7367

BURNABY

7899 Kingsway
604 521 0781

VANCOUVER

773 Denman street
604 685 4535

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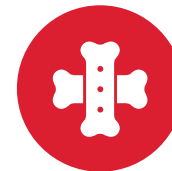
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Understanding Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) & Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)



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Detection

General Information

These are two distinct viruses that uniquely affect all CATS - large & wild or small & domesticated.

Both are “slow” viruses that can take a long time to show up as a health issue. They attack the immune system.

“Symptoms for both viruses are non-specific and may be non-existent”

How will I know if my cat is infected?

You won't. At least not if you are looking for symptoms. Symptoms for both viruses are non-specific and may be non-existent for months or even years.

That's why it is important to have specific blood tests regularly to ensure that you cat is virus free, and to prevent the spread of infection from infected cats.

When is the best time to test for infection?

There are some standard times to test cats:

- All new kittens and cats entering homes with resident cats should be tested for FeLV in advance of first contact.
- Ideally the resident cat should already be known to be FeLV negative and immunized against it.
- New cats older than 6 months should be tested for FIV as well.
- All sick cats should be tested and any cat suffering fight wounds whether they abscess or not should be tested 6-8weeks after the fact.



What is the test?

We need to obtain a few drops of blood from your cat - that's all!



Prevention

How do the viruses spread?

FeLV can be spread through saliva, urine or feces, so bite wounds, mutual grooming or the sharing of food or water dishes or litter boxes are the most common means of transmission.

“Cats that roam or fight or are just highly social should be tested REGULARLY!”

FIV transfer among cats is a little more difficult and generally occurs with fight wounds.

Can I protect my cat?

Thankfully, FeLV is preventable with immunization.

Although a vaccine is available for FIV, the drawbacks outweigh the benefits so we do not recommend it at this time. If you have questions about this, please talk with your Vet.

When is the best time for vaccination?

We strongly recommend that all kittens be vaccinated for FeLV, regardless of whether you anticipate that they will go outdoors.

Kittens are very susceptible to infection at this stage and it is not uncommon for them to end up outside unexpectedly!

After their first vaccinations, cats need to be vaccinated annually until the age of 3, then every 3 years until the age of 10-12 years if they are indeed going outdoors.

“Kittens are very susceptible”

Vaccination does not interfere with blood testing so cats can be tested and vaccinated in the same visit. Cats that roam or fight or are just highly social should be tested REGULARLY!

