

## FeLV, FIV in Cats and Kittens

### What is FeLV or FIV?

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is a complex virus that affects cats. It can damage lymphoid tissue (thymus, spleen and lymph nodes) and can cause cancer in cats that do not have a strong enough immune response to clear the infection. FeLV is not transmissible to humans.

Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a virus that is closely related to HIV virus in people. FIV is not transmissible to humans. FIV positive cats can live long healthy lives; although some cats will progress to a disease state in which their immune system is dysfunctional.

### How Do Cats Become Infected?

FeLV is spread through prolonged contact via blood, saliva, urine or from mom to kittens in utero or through milk. The number of cases of FeLV reported every year are very low. Some studies report at low as 1% in the western region of the United States.

FIV is commonly spread through direct blood contact such as intact (not neutered) male cats who live outdoors and are fighting.

### Are All Cats and Kittens Tested for FeLV and/or FIV Prior to Adoption?

The Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center *does not* routinely test all cats and kittens for FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). We may test cats that are clinically ill, showing clinical signs of disease or are group housed in our Center.

Adopters wishing to have their cat or kitten tested for FeLV/FIV may do so at the time of adoption for \$25. Since most of our animals are stray or have unknown history, we recommend that any cat or kitten testing negative be retested again in 60 days at your family Veterinarian. Retesting in 60 days will confirm there was not a recent exposure prior to entering the Center.