

# Understanding FIV



## What is FIV?

FIV is an abbreviation for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. FIV is in the same viral family as HIV, although, it's not transmissible to humans.

## How is FIV transmitted among cats?

The major route of transmission is by deep bite wounds, usually due to fighting. It can also be transmitted through blood transfusions that have not been screened for FIV.

## Does FIV infect any non-feline species?

No, only cats can contract FIV.

## If one of my cats has FIV, will my other cats catch it?

Not likely, unless your cats fight violently. Cats that share food and water and even groom each other are not at risk.

## What is the life expectancy of a cat with FIV?

Multiple studies have shown that FIV+ cats that are kept indoors have normal life expectancies.

## What are the symptoms of FIV?

Frequently, FIV+ cats are asymptomatic. Due to the immunosuppressive nature of the FIV, it can lead to dental disease, or recurrent upper respiratory tract, bladder or skin infections.

## What should I do to best care for my FIV positive cat?

The most important thing for your cat's health is to keep him inside, since he is more prone to catching infections from, or giving infections to, other cats. He should be checked once or twice yearly by your veterinarian for disease, particularly dental disease.



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