



FELV

MEDICAL DISCLOSURE FOR FELV (POSITIVE TEST)

This cat has tested positive for feline leukemia virus (FeLV). We recommend repeating the SNAP test 30 and 60 days after initial diagnosis. Some animals can clear the infection either completely or to a point where it does not cause illness. FeLV is a contagious virus that affects the immune system of cats. It does not affect other species. Feline leukemia is mainly transmitted through saliva, nursing, fighting, mating, mutual grooming, sharing bowls and litterboxes, so it is recommended they live in an only cat household, or in a home with another FeLV cat. It is not recommended to bring a cat with FeLV into a home with other negative FeLV cats, even if the other cat is vaccinated for FeLV, as no vaccine is 100% effective. It is important that cats with FeLV are kept as indoor only cats to not spread the virus to other cats. The virus is fragile and will quickly die in the environment. It is easily killed with standard disinfectants. It can persist up to a week in mucus or other body secretions. In persistent infections, the cat will have a decreased ability to fight off infections and does have a higher incidence of cancer in the future. The average life expectancy of cats with FeLV is about 3 years after diagnosis, but many live longer than that. Although cats with FeLV often have a shorter lifespan than other cats, they can enjoy a good quality of life for some time. For persistently positive animals, veterinary checks are recommended every 6 months. It is very important to make sure their basic wellness needs are addressed with your regular veterinarian; vaccinations and deworming must be kept up to date. All follow-up care will need to be done at the owner's veterinarian and at the owner's expense.