

What Is FIV?

(Feline Immunodeficiency Virus)

FIV is a lentivirus, a slow-progressing virus that can compromise a cat's immune system, reducing its ability to fight off illnesses. The virus has a long latent period then progresses so slowly that it may never affect a cat's immune system.

- FIV cats can live just as long and as healthy as Non-FIV cats and ultimately die of the same causes as Non-FIV cats.
- The virus cannot be passed to humans or other animals.
- FIV cats can live with other non-aggressive cats without spreading the virus.
- FIV is transmitted primarily through a deep bite where the virus is injected directly into the bloodstream of the Non-FIV cat. Bites of this kind are extremely rare, except in free-roaming, un-neutered tomcats.
- The virus is weak and cannot live outside the cat's body for long and is killed by light, air, heat, and household disinfectants.
- Casual behaviors do not pass the virus. (e.g., shared food or water dishes or toys, mutual grooming, snuggling, mock fighting, shared litter boxes, scratches, not even sneezes.)
- FIV cats need the same care all cats need—a quality diet (the best you can afford), live in a safe environment (indoor and/or outdoor cat-proofed area), regular Vet exams, treat any health problems as they arise, and LOVE.



FIV Cat Rescue
Educating | Advocating | Saving Lives

P.O. Box 1758
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Email: FIVCat@gmail.com
Website: FIVCatRescue.org

FIV Basics—facts about the virus.

Uses:

This high-level card has many uses. If people want to know more detailed information, then you can give them the FIV Facts Sheet.

- Consider this a cheat sheet to hand out to fosters, volunteers, staff, and other people who want to know about FIV.
- Use it as a handout at conferences or on tables at events.
- Add it to your adoption packets for FIV cats.
- This sheet can hang on an FIV cat's kennel, cage, or the door of an FIV room. It highlights the main points about the virus so adopters can focus on falling in love with the cat, not worrying about the virus.

Printing:

FIV Basics is a 1-page document in US letter size (8.5" x11"). It can print in both color or black & white. On the bottom left, there is a block of space (next to our logo) for the Shelter/Rescue to write or stamp their organization's logo/address information.

Recommendations:

Laminate if using as a kennel card. If there is a window on the door to a room, laminate 2 copies back-to-back so people outside the room can read it as well as those people inside with the FIV cats. If there is no FIV room, post it on the FIV cat's cage.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions or questions on this document.



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