

Health implications

- These retroviruses are highly contagious to other cats, and can cause a suppressed immune system, making your cat more susceptible to other illnesses.
- Although the virus is present and can pose significant risk, your cat may appear healthy for several years... or may show immediate signs of illness.

What we can do together to help your cat

Our team can treat any current symptoms and track your cat's progress to help maintain the best possible health. We also advise the following:



At Home

- ☐ Watch for changes in your cat
- ☐ Isolate your infected cat from other cats in the household
- ☐ Provide nutritional support
- ☐ Keep your cat(s) indoors
- ☐ _____



At the Veterinary Hospital

Follow-up examinations twice a year (or more frequently if recommended)

- ☐ Immunizations
- ☐ Parasite check
- ☐ Heartworm check
- ☐ Dental health
- ☐ Complete blood count (CBC)
- ☐ Chemistry panel
- ☐ Urinalysis
- ☐ Fecal exams
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____



Let's work together to help your cat.

The key to safeguarding your cat's health is to **watch closely** for any changes in your cat's behavior and condition.

Quickly identifying and addressing secondary illnesses is essential to your pet's well-being, so **contact us immediately if you notice changes in:**

- Appetite
- Activity
- Bowel movements
- Hair/Coat condition
- Weight
- Or if your cat is vomiting.

Next follow-up exam/testing date: _____

Practice what's possible®



© 2006 IDEXX Laboratories, Inc. All rights reserved. • 09-65572-00 (2)



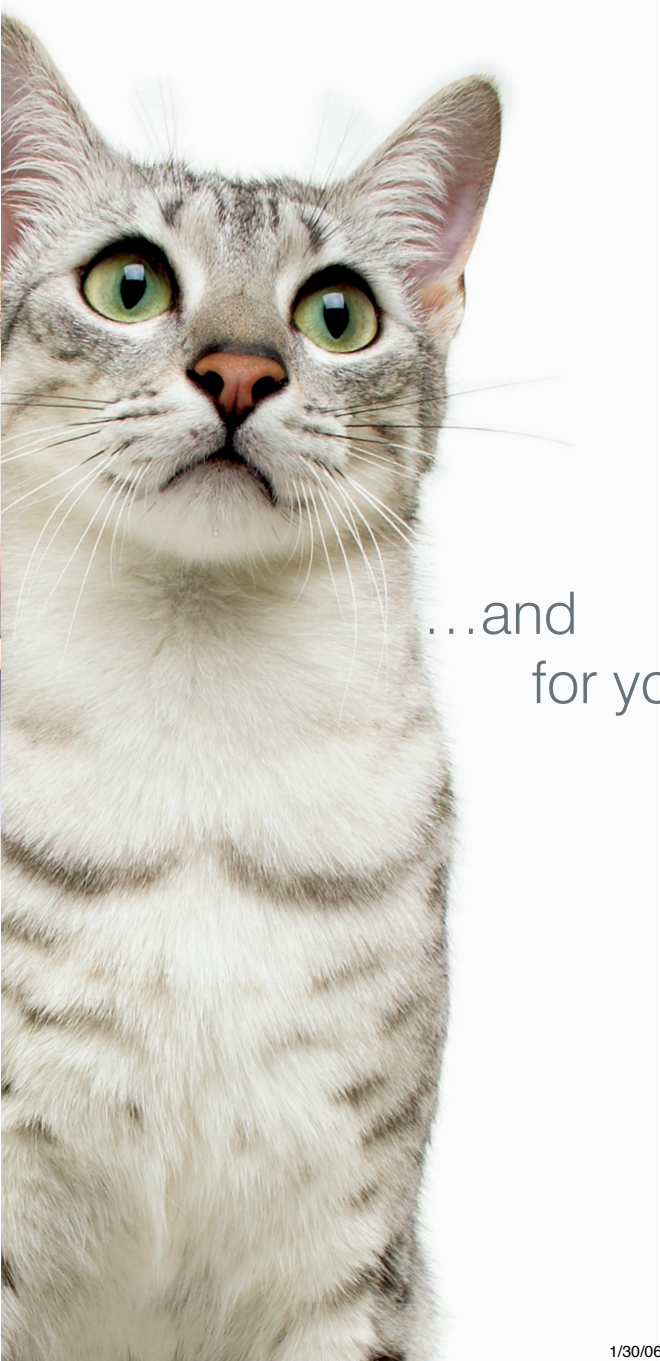
Your cat has tested positive for a retrovirus infection.

- ☐ Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV)
- ☐ Feline leukemia virus (FeLV)

With proper care, infected cats can often live long and healthy lives.

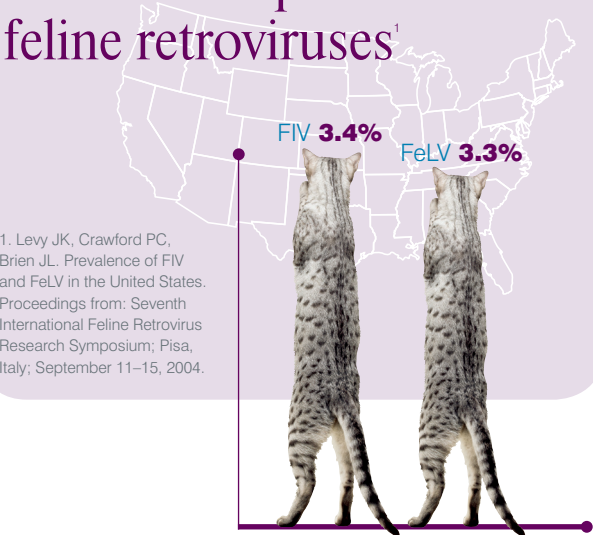
Retrovirus infection

What it means for your cat...



...and for you

Nationwide prevalence of feline retroviruses¹

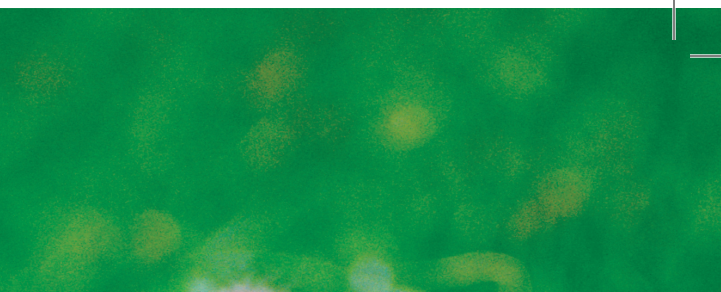


Important note about human infections:

Although these infections share some similarity to HIV infection in people (the cause of human AIDS), *your cat’s infection poses no risk to people.*



Answers to your questions about FIV and FeLV



Your Cat’s Test Result	Could the test be wrong?	The test is known to be highly accurate and has been used for many years. Feline retrovirus testing guidelines strongly recommend retesting to confirm a positive result. We will send a sample to a reference laboratory to confirm a positive result.
	What if my cat was vaccinated?	IMPORTANT! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prior vaccination against FIV WILL cause a false-positive test result. Be sure to tell us if your cat has ever received an FIV vaccine.• Prior vaccination against FeLV SHOULD NOT cause a false-positive test result.
Signs and Symptoms	My cat seems healthy right now. Will my cat become sick?	While a positive test result indicates infection, it does NOT predict the infection outcome. Many cats live a normal lifespan. Others may show signs of illness for weeks, months or even years after they’re infected. Laboratory testing may be required and can be very important in establishing the health status of your cat.
	If my cat becomes sick as a result of the infection, what will I see?	<p>There are no “sure” signs of infection, but an infected cat can develop any of the following signs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not eating• Mouth sores• Bleeding gums• Pale gums• Vomiting• Diarrhea• Weight loss• Weakness• Infected wounds• Not drinking water• Fever• Unexplained behavioral changes• Dull or matted coat• Swollen lymph nodes <p>If you see any of these signs in your cat, we’ll need to see your cat immediately and evaluate your cat’s blood to assess the impact of the infection.</p>
Treatment	Can my cat be treated?	<p>Yes, if your cat develops clinical signs or laboratory abnormalities. (If your cat remains healthy, there is no need for specific treatment.) While there is no cure for the infection, there are several treatment options for helping your cat lead a normal life. Keep in mind that your cat may appear healthy when there’s an underlying condition such as anemia. We will run tests to know what’s really going on.</p> <p>In addition, your cat’s ability to defend against secondary infections is significantly reduced.</p> <p>We can help you manage infection through a plan that includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Routine follow-up visits as needed or recommended: (experts recommend visits every four to six months)• Detailed history and thorough physical exam• Complete blood count (CBC)• Blood chemistry panel• Urinalysis and urine culture• Fecal examination• A balanced, nutritional diet (avoid raw meat, raw eggs and unpasteurized milk)• Watching for signs of other illnesses• Spaying/Neutering of adults• Maintaining a vaccination program as recommended by your veterinarian
	Can a vaccine be given now?	Vaccines for both FIV and FeLV are available. However, they are intended to prevent infections. Neither vaccine will have a beneficial health effect if your cat already has an infection.
Prevention/Stopping Spread	I have other cats at home. What should I do to protect them?	It’s very important to have your other cats examined and tested if it has not been done in the past three to six months.



This information is provided by your veterinarian, with support from Richard Ford, DVM, MS, DACVIM; Susan Little, DVM, DABVP (Feline); and IDEXX Laboratories.