

# FIV / FeLV

Leukaemia and Aids are viruses that cat's contract from other infected cats by grooming and fighting.

**Both viruses compromise the immune system.** This means that when cats that are positive for either of these diseases get sick from any other illness, they will be sicker than most cats and take longer to get better. These viruses can also lead to some form of cancers.



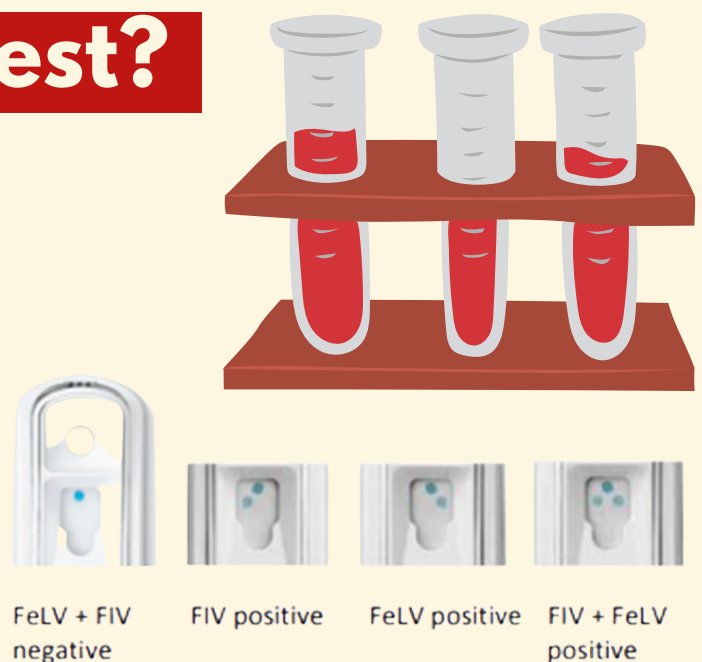
## How do cats get infected?

The viruses are **transmitted by direct contact** with an affected cat carrying the virus in its saliva.

FeLV is primarily spread by grooming and FIV by fighting and biting. FeLV can also be transmitted from infected queens to unborn kittens via the placenta; it is therefore possible that a kitten can be infected at birth.

## To test or not to test?

There are immense variations in the clinical symptoms of infected cats. It is therefore wise to test all sick cats and especially those that are chronically ill. All new additions to a household should be tested before introduction and the status in the household should also be known.



# Can infection be prevented?

Feline Leukemia can be prevented with a vaccine but unfortunately there is no vaccine available for feline Aids. Other measures include neutering cats, keeping cats indoors and isolating positive cats from negative cats.



## My cat tested positive - what now?



A positive test result is not a death sentence but gives you as owner the tools to be pro-active should your cat be under the weather. **Positive cats could be isolated and so spreading of the disease in a population can be prevented.** Follow-up testing is advised to identify those individuals who have recovered from the virus.

