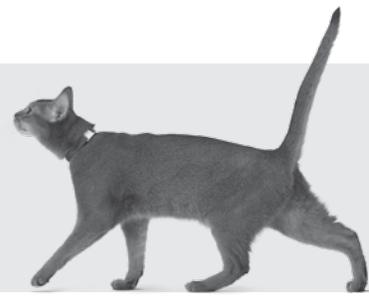


# Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)



## Is my cat at risk?

FIV can be spread through the placenta before birth, through the mother's milk or from an infected cat, usually through bite wounds or breeding. Keeping your cat indoors and away from infected cats is the best way to avoid the risk of FIV infection. Keeping your pet indoors also minimizes the chances that your cat will get in fights, be exposed to other viruses or get hit by a car. Also take these steps to help your cat avoid infection:

**Spaying or neutering** – Spaying or neutering helps your pet avoid many health problems, minimizes roaming and other behavior problems and curbs your cat's sex drive.

**Testing** – Make sure all new feline additions to your family are tested for FIV and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) infection prior to introducing them to your household. Any cat that goes outside at all or lives with cats that go outside should be tested yearly. Both vaccinated and naturally infected cats produce antibodies to FIV viral proteins and will test positive on most available tests.

**Routine health checks** – We tailor every Banfield Optimum Wellness Plan® to cover the specific needs of the pet, and the plans include nutrition counseling, vaccinations and other benefits. Ask any associate for more details.

## What to look for

You generally don't notice anything until your pet has been infected for some time. When the virus has taken over, the general symptoms of FIV can resemble other diseases, but certain persistent or recurring problems are warning flags. Make an appointment for your cat right away if you notice any of these signs:

- Weight loss
- Dental disease or bad breath
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Diarrhea
- Recurrent sneezing
- Unhealthy coat

## Veterinary care

Your veterinarian may recommend retesting when cats are ill. Additional blood work may also be necessary to determine the health status of a sick pet.

Please discuss with your Banfield veterinarian if it is appropriate to vaccinate your cat against FIV.

Unfortunately, there is no cure for FIV infection. Keeping your cat healthy requires all-around good preventive care. If your pet does contract the disease, it must be kept indoors away from non-infected cats. With proper care it can live a long, relatively healthy life. At Banfield, we can help you maintain the quality of your cat's life with vitamin supplements, proper nutrition, antibiotic therapy and other medications as needed.

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For additional information, please contact your Banfield medical team.

