

FIV+ Cats are Positively Adoptable!

FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) is a widely misunderstood condition. Many people think that it's easily spread, makes cats very sick, and that they have a lower life expectancy, so they are often overlooked for adoption. This is far from the truth!

When a cat tests positive for FIV, it means they either carry the virus or have been vaccinated against it at some point (which causes them to test positive for the disease, which is one of the main reasons why this vaccination isn't recommended).

FIV is **not** spread through casual contact such as shared food/water/litter, mutual grooming, or playing. It is most commonly spread through deep, vicious bite



Kittens with an FIV+ mother may test positive for up to 6 months due to the presence of maternal antibodies, but these dissipate over time.

FIV+ cats can live as long and healthy a life as non-infected cats. This doesn't mean they will never become ill; they are, after all immunocompromised, so illnesses can be easier to catch and harder to fight off. They have the same needs as any other cat: high

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wounds typically inflicted by intact toms fighting on the streets over food, females, or territory. If a cat has been spayed or neutered, they are unlikely to fight in this manner, and if the population is stable (no serious fighting), FIV+ cats can live with non-infected cats.

It was previously thought that FIV+ pregnant queens could pass the virus to their kittens, but this has since been disproved according to a 2014 study done by the School of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University.

quality nutrition, a clean, stress-free, strictly indoor environment, regular veterinary visits (ideally, two times per year), and lots of love.

If they should become ill, they are generally treated earlier, for a longer duration, and more aggressively than non-immunocompromised cats (meaning they need to see the vet at the very first sign of illness and may be on a stronger medication or on medication for a longer period of time).

Please consider opening up your heart and home to an FIV+ cat!
For information and resources on FIV, or to check out our adoptable cats, please visit

catnetwork.org

The Cat Network

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