

Pet Care NOTES



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RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS OF FELINE IMMUNO- DEFICIENCY VIRUS

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) is similar to HIV in that it affects its victims' immune systems. The virus is spread via a bite from an infected cat. Therefore, cats that go outdoors, especially males who are not neutered, are at the highest risk because they are more likely to get into fights. A cat whose coat is in poor condition, has lost his or her interest in eating, or has persistent diarrhea may have FIV. Inflammation of the gums or mouth, as well as recurrent infections, could also signal that your cat has a problem. Persistent and gradual weight loss often occurs in cats with FIV. Veterinarians can perform a simple blood test to see if a cat has FIV.

Weight-loss, changes in eating and bowel habits, and other behavior that is out of the ordinary should prompt a visit or at least a telephone call to your veterinarian. Some diseases progress rapidly and won't wait for delays in obtaining professional medical diagnosis and treatment. For the pet that loves and depends on you, we offer comprehensive medical, surgical, dental, and preventive care. We treat all animals that come to us as if they were our own. For more information, to schedule an appointment, or for archived articles, visit our website.

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