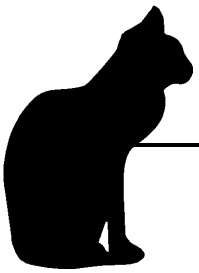

All Cats Clinic

3100 N. College Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72703
Phone: 479-571-1CAT (1228) Fax: 479/251-8636 On the web: www.allcatsclinic.org

Why Test for Feline Leukemia and FIV?

We strongly suggest testing your cat or kitten for Feline Leukemia and FIV diseases. These tests are optional but are very important to the health and welfare of your cat or kitten as well as other cats that they are exposed to.

Until the development of a vaccine to protect against Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) infection in the mid-1980's, the complex of diseases associated with FeLV was the most frequent cause of death in cats. FeLV is spread by direct contact with a positive cat such as grooming, biting, mating, sharing a litterbox or food dish, etc… FIV is seen more often in cats that are prone to fighting. FIV also has a vaccination available but is more suited for cats that are outdoors and prone to fighting. Both diseases are highly contagious to other felines.

Diagnosis of FeLV or FIV infection is relatively simple. A blood test can be performed which is able to detect viral proteins of FeLV/FIV in the blood of an infected cat. This test is very accurate and reliable and can be run in house in only about 10 minutes. In some situations it may be necessary to confirm a positive infection through repeat blood testing usually in 6 months to a year.

Your cat will typically not show symptoms of these diseases, however, problems or illnesses that may arise will be much harder to treat. It may also be harder for your cat to heal after routine surgery.

These diseases are not curable; however, if we are aware that your cat is a carrier of one of these diseases, then we are able to treat more aggressively when he is sick or give antibiotics after a surgery to ensure he heals well. Positive cats should not be let outside where they can transmit the disease to other cats, and any other cats in the household should be tested and vaccinated as well to prevent spreading the diseases through the household.

Cost to test for Feline Leukemia/FIV $38.00

Vaccinate for FeLV *(transdermal vaccine, no needle)* $20.25 *(Will need twice the 1st year)*

Vaccinate for FIV *(primarily for outdoor cats prone to fighting.)* $22.00 *(Will need three times the 1st year)*

These costs are in addition to your routine examination or surgery fees. These tests are optional however they may be required down the line if your cat is sick or has trouble recovering.

If your cat(s) are indoor only, we recommend vaccinating for FeLV the first couple of years and then we can drop it off of your cat's annual vaccination protocol. This will ensure some protection, particularly if your cat gets out the door or decides that he would prefer to go outside, even if its in your own yard or balcony. Ask us if you have any additional questions and we are happy to help.

Thank you for helping us provide the highest quality of care for your cats.