



# FIV+ Cat Facts

Cats who test positive for Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are often euthanized or are considered unadoptable. In fact, cats who test positive for FIV usually live long, healthy lives and do not infect other household pets.

**Transmission:** "FIV is mainly passed from cat to cat through deep bite wounds, the kind that usually occur outdoors during aggressive fights and territorial disputes—the perfect reason to keep your cat inside." - The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA)\*

"Casual non-aggressive behavior" does not spread FIV. "Cats in households with stable social structures [...] are at little risk for acquiring infections." -Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine\*

**Lifespan:** Multiple medical studies show that cats who test positive for FIV live just as long as FIV-negative cats.\*

"FIV itself does not cause severe clinical signs, and FIV infected cats live many years without any health problems." - Hartman, *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology*, 2011

\*Addie, Toth, Reid, Jarrett, Dennis & Callanan, *Veterinary Record*, 2000  
\*Gleich, Krieger & Hartmann, *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, 2009  
\*Little, Bienzle, Carioto, Chisholm, O'Brien & Scherk, *The Canadian Veterinary Journal*, 2011

**MYTH:** A cat can pass on FIV by living with other household cats, sharing water bowls and cleaning each other.

**FACT:** FIV is only transmitted through deep blood-drawing bite wounds. FIV+ cats can have happy lives in socialized multi-cat households.

**MYTH:** FIV+ cats will become ill and die at an early age.

**FACT:** FIV+ cats do not have a higher incidence of illness, and live the same lifespan as non FIV+ cats.

**Please spread the facts about FIV+ cats to your veterinarians, rescues, shelters, and friends!**

**FIV+ cats need love too!**

\*Hosie, Addie, Belak, Boucraut-Baralon, Egberink, Frymus & Lloret, *Journal of Feline Medicine & Surgery*, 2009  
\*Walker, Canfield & Love, *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology*, 1994

