



Is My Cat At Risk For Feline Leukemia?

Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is the leading infectious killer of cats. It is estimated that more than two million cats in the U.S. are infected with this deadly virus. FeLV is highly contagious and is transmitted from cat to cat through saliva, blood and other body secretions.

FeLV attacks and impairs a cat's immune system. Infected cats develop leukemia or secondary diseases that they normally would have been able to resist. Some cats become infected and serve as "silent carriers," transmitting the virus, yet exhibiting no signs of the disease.

About 50% of cats that test positive for FeLV will develop symptoms within two years. Of cats that become infected, 80% will die within three years. Unfortunately, there is no cure for this disease.

FeLV, however, can be prevented. A simple test done here at our clinic can confirm, in minutes, whether your cat has the virus. If the results are negative, and your cat is "at-risk," then your cat should be vaccinated against FeLV.

Specialists in FeLV diagnostics have prepared the following questionnaire to help you assess your cat's risk of becoming infected with FeLV. Next to each answer is a score. Answer each question and circle the answer that pertains to your pet. Then go back and total the scores you have circled to obtain the Feline Leukemia Risk Factor for your cat.

1. Is your cat a:
totally indoor cat (0),
outdoor cat (20), or
both (10)?
2. Does your cat live in a multi-cat household or come in contact with other cats?
 - A. No, does not come in contact with any other cat. (0)
 - B. Yes, comes in contact with one additional cat. (10)
 - C. Yes, comes in contact with two cats. (30)
 - D. Yes, comes in contact with three or more cats. (40)
3. How did you obtain your cat?
 - A. From parents certified FeLV free. (0)
 - B. Purchased certified FeLV free from commercial breeder or pet shop. (0)
 - C. Purchased non-certified FeLV free from breeder or pet shop. (20)
 - D. Adopted from unknown background. (20)
 - E. My cat adopted me. (20)
4. How would you describe your cat? (Choose as many as may apply.)
 - A. Healthy (0)
 - B. Feverish (20)
 - C. Has gastrointestinal problems (vomiting, diarrhea) (20)
 - D. Lethargic or weak (30)
 - E. Has poor appetite (40)
 - F. Is thin or losing weight (50)
5. Your cat's age is?
 - A. Less than one year (10)
 - B. 1-3 years (30)
 - C. 4-6 years (30)
 - D. 7-10 years (20)
 - E. 11 years of older (20)
6. Has your cat been subjected to other health-related problems?
 - A. None (0)
 - B. Recent injury (10)
 - C. Chronic disease (50)
 - D. Former history of abuse (50)
 - E. Exposure to another FeLV positive cat (60)
7. When was your cat last tested for FeLV?
 - A. Within the last year (0)
 - B. More than a year ago (10)
 - C. Don't know (20)
8. What was the result of your cat's last FeLV test?
 - A. Negative (0)
 - B. Positive (90)
 - C. Don't know (20)

*See reverse side for results

TOTAL SCORE:

WHAT YOUR TEST SCORE MEANS:

Use the summary below to find the Feline Leukemia risk factor for your pet.

10 to 70 points - If the risk factor for your cat is 70 or less, your cat is at a lower risk of being infected with FeLV. We can show you how to continue to protect your pet.

80 to 180 points - If your cat's score falls between 80 and 180, your cat has a moderate level of risk for exposure. Your cat should be re-tested. Ask one of our veterinarians for advice on how you may reduce the risk for your cat.

190 to 330 points - If the score is 190 or above, your cat is in a high-risk group. If your cat hasn't been tested for FeLV in the past year, it should be tested as soon as possible, and if negative, vaccinated immediately!

