

# The Top Three Fatal Feline Diseases

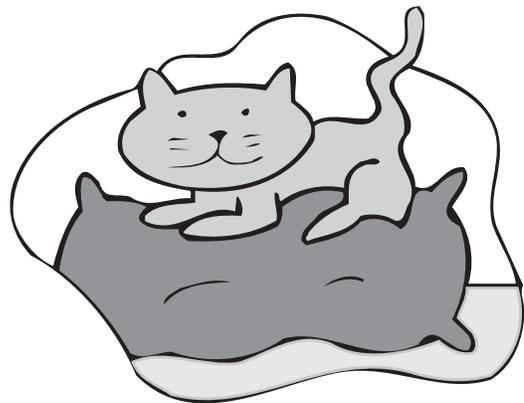
For years now, we've had safe and effective vaccines for distemper, rabies and the respiratory diseases that used to kill millions of cats every year. Because most of our clients are vaccinating their pets for them, these once very common infections are under control. (They are still common in outdoor and unvaccinated cats.)

There are three other infectious diseases that kill millions of cats per year and many of our patients are at risk. These diseases are known by a confusing set of initials - FeLV, FIV and FIP. About 10% of cats in this country are infected with one or more of these viruses. Once your cat becomes ill with any of these diseases he or she will eventually die. There are no effective treatments or cures. What will save cats' lives is preventing the spread of these infections through blood testing and vaccination.

All three of these infections can be carried and spread for long periods of time by cats who are harboring the viruses with no obvious symptoms of disease. Cats who appear perfectly healthy can be infected yet not come down with an illness for months or years. During these months or years, however, they are contagious to other cats.

**1 . . .** The number one infectious disease killer of cats in the United States today is **Feline Leukemia Virus, or FeLV**. **FeLV** destroys the cat's immune system so that he falls prey to anemia, cancer or infectious diseases that a healthy cat would not get. A simple blood test is 99% accurate in diagnosing the disease. It is less accurate in kittens or in cats who have only recently been exposed to the disease. We routinely test all new cats and kittens entering a household. We recommend vaccination for this disease for kittens and for cats who go outdoors. Effective vaccines have been available for many years. If your adult cat receives this vaccine it should be boosted every year.

**2 . . .** The next virus on our list is the **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus, FIV**, a relative of the HIV virus that causes AIDS in people. A blood test that will tell you whether your cat is a carrier for this disease is commonly done in conjunction with testing for FeLV. All cats should be tested for this disease, as these test results will influence all your health care decisions for the rest of your cat's life.





# The tests and vaccines we are recommending for your cat have been marked below:



\_\_\_ **Blood testing for FeLV or FIV** (circle one). We need only a few drops of blood.

The cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **Blood testing for FeLV and FIV.** We need only a few drops of blood. The test takes about twelve minutes and is done here in our office.

The cost is \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **Vaccination for FeLV.** Two doses are required the first year. One dose is often given along with the FVRCCP distemper vaccination. Annual boosters are required, also usually given inexpensively along with the annual FVRCCP distemper vaccine. We usually recommend vaccinating all kittens but adult cats only if they go outdoors or are at high risk.

The cost today will be \$\_\_\_\_\_.

In 3-5 weeks a second booster will cost \$\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_ **Vaccination for FIV.** Three doses are required the 1st year, about one month apart. The vaccine is then boosted annually.

The cost today will be \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Visits for the 2nd and 3rd boosters will be \$\_\_\_\_\_ each.

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