

FIV Cats Make Great Adoptees

When a cat is listed positive for FIV, the feline immunodeficiency disease often referred to ominously as "feline AIDS," they come across as "less adoptable" and often spend the rest of their lives in shelters...or worse. But the truth is, these cats are just as lovable and adoptable as any other cat.

Need more convincing? Here are some reasons why you should consider adopting a cat with FIV:

FIV is Not Transmissible to Humans

If you were worried about contracting AIDS from your cat, you can put those anxieties to rest right now. There's absolutely no way that you can get AIDS or FIV from your cat. So, banish the thought and instead consider adopting these deserving felines into your home.

FIV is About as Transmissible as HIV

(in fact, even less so)

The only way any other animal in your household could contract FIV is by mating or biting. So, if your pets are spayed/neutered, there is no problem there. And, usually, even among the most unruly cats in a household there is only scratching, not biting wounds.

(Side note: FeLV (feline leukemia virus), can be transmitted by more casual contact - e.g., grooming, sharing food, etc.).

Cats with FIV Can Live Very Long, Perfectly Comfortable Lives

More than likely, any FIV+ cat you adopt will live a long happy life without suffering any related illness. The virus itself is very slow to affect the cat. There is a lot of misinformation

about FIV+ cats, and even some veterinarians aren't up-to-date on the latest care guidelines. In fact, the FDA has recently approved a treatment for FIV.

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) encourages pet owners to avoid euthanasia based on a positive test alone. Importantly, the experts at AAFP offer some important recommendations to care for these special kitties:

1. FIV+ cats need to see the vet two times a year for a thorough examination and include annual lab work for a complete blood count, chemistry panel and urinalysis.
2. Although it typically does not happen more than the average feline, when a FIV+ cat is feeling ill, they should receive immediate care.
3. It is crucial that FIV+ cats be spayed/neutered, stay indoors and stay clear of environmental exposure to infectious diseases.

So, there you have it! Besides one extra visit to your friendly veterinarian each year, FIV+ cats are just as easy to take care of as those without it. When you adopt a FIV+ kitty you are not only saving a life, but enhancing your own. These felines are lovable, fun, and deserving of a loving and caring forever home.

Additional resources (click on links for more info)

http://members.petfinder.com/~PA588/FIV_Information.htm

<http://www.catdepot.org/resources/library/fiv-positive-cats.aspx>

http://www.petmd.com/blogs/fullyvetted/2010/april/adopting_FIV_Cats-7226

<http://www.tcyte.com>