

Feline Leukemia - *The Silent Killer*

What is the feline leukemia virus?

The feline leukemia virus is a cancer-causing retrovirus, responsible for causing leukemia-like cancers and weakening a cat's immune system. As a result of weakened immunity, cats become susceptible to a wide range of diseases.

Is my cat at risk for this virus?

All cats are susceptible to contracting the feline leukemia virus. It is a virus that is a concern worldwide because it is the leading killer of cats. Reducing risk is possible through vaccination, education and testing.

How does the feline leukemia virus spread?

This virus is often spread by close contact with an infected cat. The virus can be spread through bodily fluids and secretions (from shared food or water containers, licking, mating or fighting). The infection can also be transmitted to kittens through their mother's milk. Any cat that's come in contact with another cat, and particularly those who live in multi-cat households, are at risk of contracting the virus.

Should my cat be tested for the feline leukemia virus?

Yes. All cats should be tested for the infection. It's important to know, from an early stage, whether or not your cat has been exposed to the virus. Early detection is the best method of management.



How can I protect my cat?

The good news is that there's a vaccination for the feline leukemia virus. So, since there is no known cure for the feline leukemia virus the best method is vaccination and prevention. Preventing your cat to be in dangerous, high-risk situations, such as meeting with other cats whom you know are strays, will help. At Garden City Cat Hospital, we recommend that all cats be vaccinated for the virus—which will significantly reduce the risk of contracting the virus.



Garden City Cat Hospital - A Place Especially for Cats and Their People!
332 Geneva Street - (905) 646-8800