

# ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

<b>Disease Name:</b>	<b>Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)</b>		
<b>Agent:</b>	Feline Immunodeficiency virus (enveloped RNA retrovirus)		
<b>Clinical Signs:</b>	Various secondary infections including severe oral disease and upper respiratory infections		
<b>Susceptible domestic species</b>	Cats		
<b>Zoonotic?</b>	NO		
<b>Diagnostic tests:</b>	<b>ELISA serum test for antibody</b>	<b>Western blot serum test for antibody</b>	<b>PCR-Idexx</b>
<b>Test sensitivity (false negatives)</b>	Good (must be performed 60 days after last known exposure to allow time for seroconversion)	Moderate	Good- -ve test does not rule it out
<b>Test specificity (false positives)</b>	Good, but false positive common in low prevalence populations – if possible, positive test should be confirmed by another test. False positives due to maternal antibodies in kittens < 6 months old or prior vaccination.	Good. Thought to be more specific than ELISA, but recent study by Julie Levy suggests ELISA is more specific.	Very Good, +ve test means cat is very likely truly infected.
<b>Test comments</b>	There is no currently available test which distinguishes natural infection from vaccination for FIV. For +ve testing cats, need to retest 3 months later to be certain of status.		
<b>Vaccine available?</b>	Yes		
<b>Vaccine efficacy</b>	~ 80% in manufacturer study, may be less effective in field conditions. More information on vaccine is available at <a href="http://www.aafponline.org/fiv_info_brief.htm">http://www.aafponline.org/fiv_info_brief.htm</a>		
<b>Excreted in :</b>	Primarily saliva, genital fluids		
<b>Mode of transmission:</b>	Not highly contagious. Transmitted primarily through biting and mating.		
<b>Disinfection</b>	Routine disinfection adequate.		
<b>Incubation</b>	Antiviral antibodies first detected 2-4 weeks post infection (but may take 1-3 months); clinical signs usually develop within 3-6 years post infection.		
<b>Carrier state?</b>	Cats may be viremic and appear healthy for extended periods, but can be infectious through biting or mating to other cats		
<b>PPE Required</b>	Gloves, gown		