



FIV DISEASE IN KITTENS

What is FIV Disease?

- FIV stands for feline immunodeficiency virus.
- FIV attacks the immune system.
- Recent studies suggest that cats with FIV commonly live normal life spans.
- The disease is transmitted by deep bite wounds that occur during fighting.
- Casual contact such as sharing food bowls or snuggling is NOT associated with transmission.



What to know:

- Kittens younger than 6 months may have received antibodies from their mother causing them to test positive, but they are not actually infected.
- It is exceedingly rare a kitten themselves would be infected with FIV.
- Following the recommendations of shelter veterinarians and nationally accredited organizations including ASPCA, Austin Pets Alive, and Best Friends Animal Society, testing at Arlington Animal Services will be limited to kittens showing signs of illness or failure to thrive.
- We recommend healthy adopted kittens be tested with their primary veterinarian after 6 months of age.

**For more information visit:
[https://arlingtontx.gov/
felinediseases](https://arlingtontx.gov/felinediseases)**