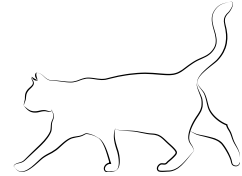




FIV/FELV TESTING

IN KITTENS



Arlington Animal Services Policy: Kittens younger than 6 months old will not be combo tested for FIV/FELV

THE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING TESTING CAME FROM AAS SHELTER VETERINARIANS AND NATIONALLY ACCREDITED ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING:

Alley Cat Allies
ASPCA
Austin Pets Alive
Best Friends Animal Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMON FIV/FELV VISIT:

<https://arlingtontx.gov/felinediseases>

On August 27, 2020 a policy was established that no kitten, under the age of 6 months, will be tested for FIV/FELV made under the recommendation of shelter veterinarian, Dr. Azzolini.

What We Know:

- FIV is typically transmitted via deep bite wounds from an infected cat.
- Kittens younger than 6 months may have received antibodies from their mother, causing them to test positive, but they are not actually infected.
- Tests react to antibodies, and vaccinations can cause a test to show positive because of circulating antibodies responding to the exposure of the vaccination.
- It is exceedingly rare a kitten themselves would be infected with FIV.
- Drawing blood for FIV/FELV tests in kittens is extremely difficult, even for the most experienced person, causing extreme stress and anxiety on kittens who are already stressed in a shelter environment.
- 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 after 6 months of age.