

What you should know about feline AIDS?

FORT DODGE

Your Partner In Animal Care

What is feline AIDS?

Feline AIDS is caused by infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV causes a potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the immune system of a cat.

The virus lives in the blood of the infected cat and is carried in its system throughout its life.

Infected cats may expose healthy cats with which they come into contact, most often by biting.

Cats infected with FIV may remain healthy for up to 10 years. While some infected cats show no sign of disease, others may display initial symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Lethargy
- Swollen lymph nodes

As the disease progresses, symptoms may occur such as:

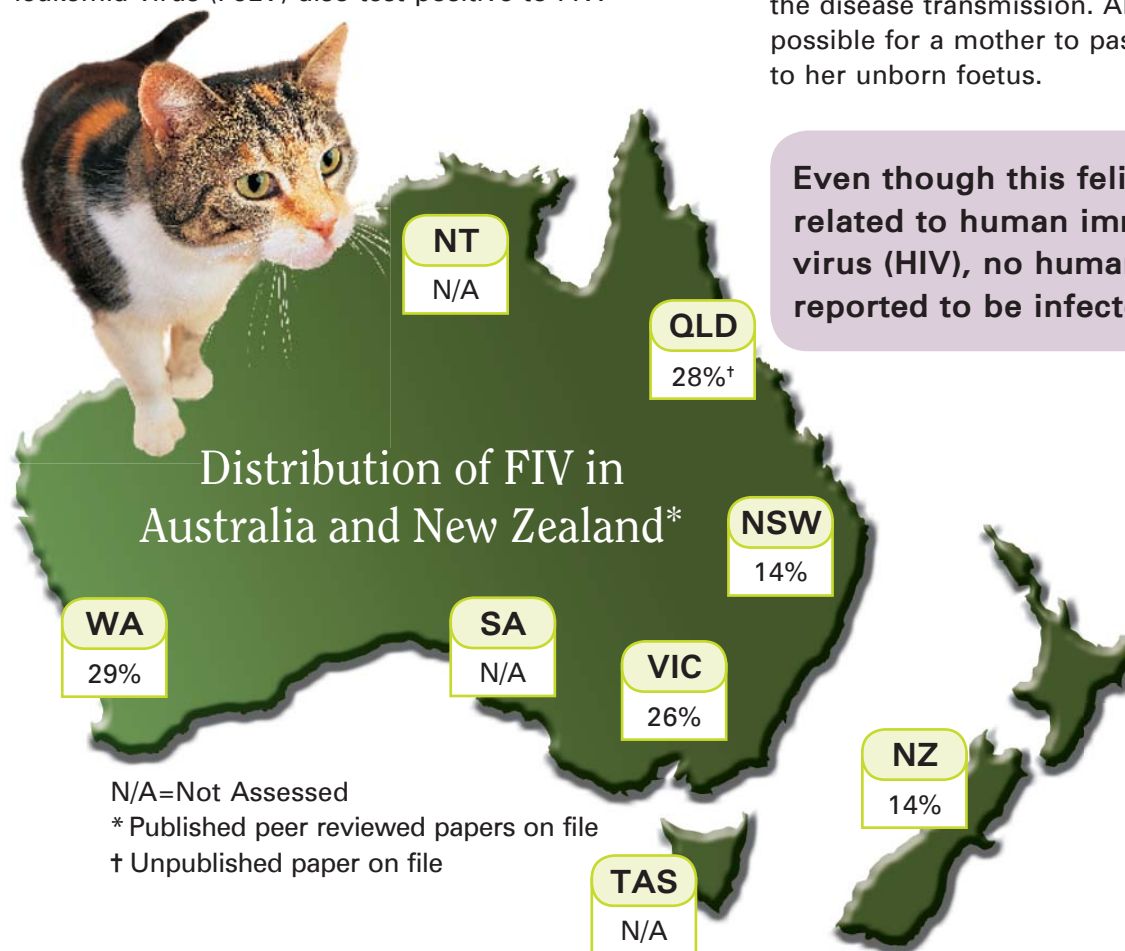
- Weight loss
- Sores in and around the mouth
- Eye lesions
- Poor coat
- Chronic infections

Eventually the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other infections or diseases. As a result, the cat will die from one of these subsequent infections.

How prevalent is feline AIDS?

It is reported that between 14% and 29% of cats in Australia and New Zealand test positive to the disease.

Outdoor cats are at the highest risk of disease and many cats that test positive to feline leukemia virus (FeLV) also test positive to FIV.



How is the disease contracted?

FIV is spread from cat to cat primarily through bite wounds, the virus being shed in high levels through saliva. Outdoor cats are at a higher risk for contracting the disease. The spread of FIV through watering bowls or grooming is unlikely. An actual bite wound is an integral part of the disease transmission. Although rare, it is possible for a mother to pass the infection on to her unborn foetus.

Even though this feline virus is related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), no human has ever been reported to be infected with FIV.

Feline AIDS

What can I do to prevent feline AIDS?

Vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease in at-risk cats. There is no treatment or cure for an FIV infected cat. A vaccine is available that can aid in the prevention of infection by FIV. Talk with your veterinarian about the best vaccination program for your cat.

Along with vaccination, other health management measures include:

- Limiting exposure of indoor cats to outdoor cats
- Using caution when introducing a new cat to a multi-cat household
- Having a new cat tested prior to joining the household
- Isolating an aggressive cat from other cats

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Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) Information

FIV vaccination guideline

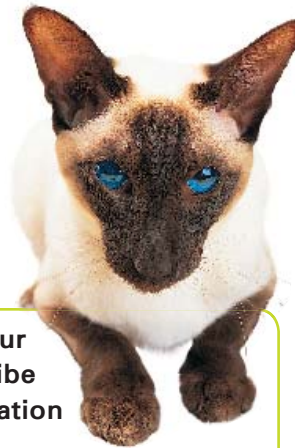
Unvaccinated cats

Those cats presented at 8 weeks of age or older require 3 doses at an intervaccination interval of 2-4 weeks.

Vaccinated cats

Annual vaccination is recommended.

Please seek the advice of your veterinarian who will prescribe the most appropriate vaccination regime for your pet.



Fel-O-Vax® FIV Vaccine

AIDS in Protection

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Fort Dodge Australia Pty. Limited
ABN 64 000 074 902
PO Box 6024, Baulkham Hills BC,
NSW 2153, Australia
Tel: (02) 9899 0444 Fax: (02) 9899 2151

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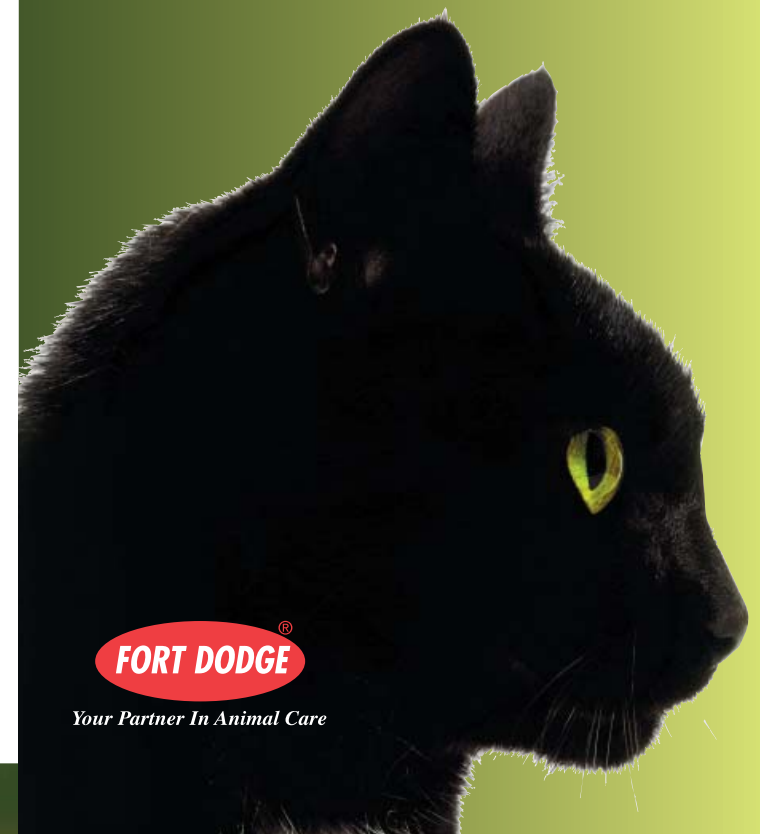
Fort Dodge New Zealand Limited
Private Bag 92903,
Onehunga Auckland, New Zealand
Tel: 0800 115 966 Fax: (09) 276 9292

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What you should know about feline AIDS*

A leading cause of disease in cats

*Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV), the cause of feline AIDS is not the same virus as human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the cause of human AIDS.



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