



Blue Springs

# Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



## FELINE LEUKEMIA VIRUS

Feline leukemia virus is one of the most common and deadly of all cat diseases. **It is contagious and is spread primarily by close contact such as grooming, fighting, playing, or mating with an infected cat.** Kittens may be infected while still in the womb or by close contact with an infected parent. Shared food dishes, water bowls, litter boxes, and living quarters are also sources of infection.

There are no specific symptoms of leukemia virus infection, and apparently healthy cats can carry the virus without acting sick. The main effect of the virus is disruption of the cat's immune system, making them susceptible to many other diseases and problems.

**Once a cat's immune system is affected, they rarely live more than three years.**

There is no treatment to cure feline leukemia virus infection.

**To prevent feline leukemia, it is recommended that all cats be tested and then vaccinated against the leukemia virus. Any new cats should be tested and vaccinated prior to having contact with your current pets.** The leukemia virus test is a simple blood test that can be run in a few minutes in our hospital. Healthy cats should then receive two initial vaccines four weeks apart, followed by an annual booster.

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