

Tea Tree Gully Veterinary Hospital

1333 North East Road, Tea Tree Gully SA 5091

T: 08 8265 3399

Dr. Phillip M. Reeve B.V.Sc.

Dr. Mark W. Reeve B.V.Sc.

Dr. Martin Suter B.V.Sc.(Hons)

Dr. Susan Reeve B.V.Sc.(Hons)

Dr. Karen Phillips B.V.Sc.(Hons)



**New vaccine
now available!**

Information on Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) OR Feline Aids

Until recently the incidence of FIV has been very low in our area. However in the last 3 months we have diagnosed FIV in a small number of cats at the clinic. The incidence of FIV in Adelaide is unknown but an increase in cases is being seen. A vaccination for FIV has recently become available.

Symptoms: Feline Immunodeficiency Virus is a virus of cats that causes a suppression of the cat's immune system. The most common problem seen in cats with FIV is an increased susceptibility to infections. These cats have a lot of difficulty overcoming even mild infections. Other diseases such as certain cancers, diarrhoea and anaemia may also be seen less commonly. However, some cats with the virus may be healthy appearing cats.

Transmission: Affected cats have high concentrations of virus in saliva and the most common route of infection is via cat fight wounds. Sexual transmission does not occur. The virus is not transmitted to humans.

Treatment: At present there is no treatment for cats infected with FIV.

At Risk Cats: Any cat that spends time outside is at risk. Most outdoor cats will at some stage be involved in a fight with other cats and therefore have some risk of being infected. Cats that are frequently involved in fights have a higher risk of contracting the virus. If your cat (or all your cats if you have more than one) is an inside cat **100% of the time**, and has been inside all their life then risk of disease transmission is very low.

Detection of FIV. A simple in-clinic blood test will detect FIV infection in most infected cats. On occasion a laboratory test (called a PCR test) may be required to confirm a diagnosis.

Prevention: Recently a vaccination has become available for FIV. This vaccination is administered as an initial course of 3 doses, given 2-4 weeks apart and then a yearly booster is required to maintain protection. Cats older than 6 months of age require a test to ensure they are not infected with the virus prior to being vaccinated. This in-house test will detect most cats that have the virus. In some cases further laboratory testing may be recommended. Cats younger than 6 months of age do not require this test.

We would advise including the FIV vaccination in your cat's vaccination schedule if your cat spends any time outside. If you require any further information regarding the FIV vaccination or testing procedures, or would like to book in your cat for the FIV vaccination required please contact the clinic on **8265 3399**

