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## How much does a fiv felv test cost

Published December 16, 2021 Content Reviewed by an Essentials PetCare Veterinarian The feline leukemia virus, or FeLV, is one of the greatest dangers to the health of your cat. In fact, the virus is one of the leading causes of deaths in cats! Thankfully, a positive diagnosis doesn't always mean the worst. Many cats are able to continue their lives with the virus or get rid of it on their own. But how do you know if your cat is a carrier? The best way to monitor your cat is with FeLV testing. So, how much does a feline leukemia test cost? At Essentials PetCare, we offer affordable FeLV and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) testing. A FeLV/FIV test is just \$40 for both cats and kittens at any of our locations. The test can be given on its own, or added on to any of our other services. We also offer the Leukemia vaccine bundled with the FeLV/FIV test starting at \$55. Important to note: the FeLV vaccine does require a negative test result if it's an overdue booster or if you cannot present proof of previous vaccination. Feline Leukemia tests use blood samples to look for protein antigens to the virus present in the cat. A veterinary technician uses a special test kit that requires a blood or saliva sample. If the kit changes color, it is a sign that antigens are present in the cat's blood. These kits are very similar to the type of kits used to determine a positive pregnancy in humans and take 10-20 minutes to read. A more advanced type of test is sometimes used, which sends the sample off to a diagnostic lab and takes a few days. It's important to note that no tests are one hundred percent accurate, but a positive result means that the cat is most likely a carrier of the virus. If your cat is diagnosed with feline leukemia, you should know that there is no cure. However, that doesn't mean nothing can be done. Your vet can still advise you on the best treatment to help aid symptoms and improve their quality of life. Fortunately, many cats with positive results can continue to live healthy lives for several years. In some instances, the virus even resolves on its own. However, if a cat seems healthy but tests positive for FeLV, they should be quarantined from other household cats and retested in a few months. Why? Because FeLV carriers can infect other cats. If your cat is showing signs of illness, especially unusual ones, it is a good idea to have them tested for both FeLV and FIV. Because these viruses can lead to multiple diseases and health problems, early diagnosis is key. Additionally, if your cat has been exposed to other cats who have either virus, they should be tested. And if you are adopting a new cat and you do not know their medical history, it is highly recommended you have them tested. You can help keep the feline leukemia test cost down by taking care of shots and other routine care at the same time. Yes, there are at-home options for feline leukemia tests. However, it is recommended to have a test administered professionally by a veterinarian for a number of reasons. These include: The multiple variables when testingThe severity of a cat's illness may merit a diagnostic test to be sent to a labIt can be difficult to maintain a sterile environment at home when testing your cat Because of these factors, Essentials PetCare makes it easy to have safe and reliable testing done at a reasonable cost to you. Feline leukemia affects thousands of cats each year. And it's more prevalent in cats who are already ill or immunocompromised. Fortunately, the FeLV vaccine has helped lower the number of infections considerably. Feline leukemia is contracted through saliva, blood, and sometimes urine and feces. It is a disease that is transmitted from cat to cat — people and other animals cannot become infected. And while the virus can only live outside the body for a few hours, it is highly contagious. Some common ways the virus is contracted are believed to include: GroomingFightingShared water and food dishesShared litter boxesPassed down to kittens from an infected mother, either in utero or through the mother's milk Fortunately, studies show resistance seems to increase with age, which means older cats are less susceptible. Cats who have Feline Leukemia may present with some of the following symptoms: Yellow eyesYellow or pale gumsBladder issuesCoat or skin conditionsSwollen lymph nodesWeight loss Loss of appetiteDiarrheaLethargy FeverBreathing issues or respiratory infectionsReproductive issues There are different stages of FeLV that can affect cats in a variety of ways: Abortive infections: These are the rare cases where a cat's immune response destroys the virus and eliminates it on its own.Regressive infections: In some cases, cats' immune systems are able to remove FeLV from their bloodstream but not their bone marrow. This makes the virus dormant, and they are not symptomatic or contagious. However, the virus can wake back up sometimes and become active and contagious again.Progressive infections: Cats with this type of infection have FeLV virus particles active in their blood. In these cases, they will likely show signs of disease and can infect other cats. Yes, kittens should be tested for FeLV/FIV. And the feline leukemia test cost is the same for kittens and cats. But it is important to note that some kittens test positive for FeLV or FIV without actually being infected. This is because virus antibodies can be passed through the placenta or milk from infected mothers. Kittens should be tested and receive their first leukemia vaccine at their first visit (9 weeks), followed by a leukemia booster at their second visit (12 weeks). One of the only proven ways to protect your cat from feline leukemia is to limit their exposure to other cats who may be infected. This means keeping your cat indoors, or monitoring their outside time. For indoor/outdoor cats, regular FeLV/FIV testing is recommended. The other way is to be proactive and have your cat vaccinated against FeLV and other major illnesses. While no vaccine is 100 percent effective, they greatly reduce your cat's chances of contracting major illnesses during their lifetime. Essentials PetCare offers vaccination packages at affordable prices for both cats and kittens to ensure their safety and your peace of mind. Essential Tip: View our affordable cat service options. Qualifying pet parents can also apply to pay over time on purchases of \$150+. VIEW SERVICES & PRICING > Prices subject to change. See current prices. Published December 16, 2021 Content Reviewed by an Essentials PetCare Veterinarian The feline leukemia virus, or FeLV, is one of the greatest dangers to the health of your cat. In fact, the virus is one of the leading causes of deaths in cats! Thankfully, a positive diagnosis doesn't always mean the worst. Many cats are able to continue their lives with the virus or get rid of it on their own. But how do you know if your cat is a carrier? The best way to monitor your cat is with FeLV testing. So, how much does a feline leukemia test cost? At Essentials PetCare, we offer affordable FeLV and FIV (feline immunodeficiency virus) testing. 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Additionally, if your cat has been exposed to other cats who have either virus, they should be tested. And if you are adopting a new cat and you do not know their medical history, it is highly recommended you have them tested. You can help keep the feline leukemia test cost down by taking care of shots and other routine care at the same time. Yes, there are at-home options for feline leukemia tests. However, it is recommended to have a test administered professionally by a veterinarian for a number of reasons. These include: The multiple variables when testingThe severity of a cat's illness may merit a diagnostic test to be sent to a labIt can be difficult to maintain a sterile environment at home when testing your cat Because of these factors, Essentials PetCare makes it easy to have safe and reliable testing done at a reasonable cost to you. Feline leukemia affects thousands of cats each year. And it's more prevalent in cats who are already ill or immunocompromised. 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Essentials PetCare offers vaccination packages at affordable prices for both cats and kittens to ensure their safety and your peace of mind. Essential Tip: View our affordable cat service options. Qualifying pet parents can also apply to pay over time on purchases of \$150+. VIEW SERVICES & PRICING > Prices subject to change. See current prices. This test is recommended for newly acquired stray or adopted cats, prior to introducing new cats to other cats in household, or at recommendation of the veterinarian. This test screens for two feline retroviruses, FeLV (Feline Leukemia Virus) and FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus). FeLV and FIV are transmitted by close contact with other cats and can result in serious and life-threatening disease. This test requires a small blood sample and will be performed in-office with results in just 10 minutes. If you have ever owned a cat, it is likely that you have heard the acronym "FIV." Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is a common virus that is specific to the feline family. FIV, first discovered in the mid-1980s, is found in cats and kittens worldwide. Feline HIV is a virus that can cause AIDS in cats; but, there's often a long asymptomatic period before this occurs. The primary mode of transmission of FIV is through bite wounds resulting in FIV is often called the "fighting cat" disease. The disease commonly spreads from one cat to another by fighting (specifically, by scratching and biting). Cat HIV causes a potentially fatal and highly contagious retroviral infection which impairs a cat's immune system and makes her susceptible to illness and secondary infections.As neutered cats and kittens fight much less than intact cats, neuter programs considerably reduce FIV transmission. Most FIV cats can live for several years—sometimes their whole lives—without any noticeable side effects of this virus. Hence, an FIV-positive diagnosis is not a death sentence for your cat. However, keep in mind that there are various strains of FIV, and some are more harmful than others.Symptoms of FIV in CatsYour cat can be infected with feline immunodeficiency virus for a prolonged period before he becomes noticeably ill. Experts call this period "viral dormancy." As the FIV affects the ability of the immune system to fight disease, bacteria, viruses, protozoa, and other disease organisms may trigger severe illness.Symptoms of FIV in cats are: Cancer (especially lymphosarcoma)Pale gumsOcular (eye) inflammationWounds that will not healLoss of appetiteLeucopenia and anemiaWeight lossBehavior changes, seizures, and other neurological disordersPersistent diarrheaBad breathChronic skin infectionsRunny eyesFIV DiagnosisThere is a straightforward blood test that can check for exposure to feline FIV. A positive test result indicates that your cat has feline HIV and is likely to remain infected for the rest of his or her life.Usually, the average age of FIV positive cats is five years old, and the risk of infection tends to increase with age. If you suspect an FIV infection in your cat, your vet would like to conduct a comprehensive physical exam on the cat. Your vet will take the history of symptoms into consideration and other possible contributing incidents.Your vet will test for feline HIV with an enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Your vet can perform this kind of test in the veterinary clinic. It is also known as a SNAP test. The test works by screening for FIV-specific antibodies present in the blood.If your cat or kitten tests positive on the ELISA test, you have to confirm the results by retesting in eight weeks or by submitting your cat's blood samples for a more definitive PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test or Western Blot test. Also, a urinalysis will be performed to evaluate kidney function as well as screen for urinary infections.FIV Treatment's vital to keep in mind that there is no definite cure for FIV in cats. Sometimes, suitable antibiotics or other drugs to help stimulate the cat's immune system can treat FIV, which restores the cat to relatively good health. Various antibiotics may effectively treat secondary bacterial infections linked to feline HIV. Unfortunately, this is often only temporary, and new infections may continue to occur due to the suppressed immune system. An FIV-infected cat must be spayed or neutered and should be restricted indoors to prevent the spread of feline HIV to other cats in the area. Doing so also lowers their exposure to various infectious agents that are carried by other animals. You should feed your cat nutritionally complete and balanced diets. Uncooked food, like raw meat and eggs, as well as unpasteurized dairy products, must be avoided to reduce the risk of food-borne bacterial infections and parasitic infections. Hospitalization is often not required unless your cat is extremely dehydrated.Post Treatment CareThe main goals of managing an FIV-infection in cats are preventing further spread of the infection to other cats while maintaining a good quality of life for your infected cat. Post-treatment care and support should include the following:Confine your FIV-positive cat indoors, if possible Keep the cat away from non-infected cats. You can create a cat-proof enclosure that allows your cat or kitten some access to the outdoors without coming in contact with other cats. You can use fencing in your garden.Maintain proper quality nutrition - feed good quality foods and avoid raw eggs, meat, and unpasteurized dairy products to minimize the risk of exposure to bacteria and parasites that may cause disease.Maintain high-quality routine healthcare (routine vaccinations and regular flea and worm control, etc.)Ideally, vet health checks twice annually - your vet might suggest specific blood tests regularly to monitor your kitty's health.Average Cost of TreatmentTreatment for the feline immunodeficiency virus is quite expensive. According to estimates, the cost range from \$150 to \$2,000 per treatment. This cost varies depending on the medications your veterinarian prescribes, whether or not you have pet insurance, whether or not your cat needs surgery, and the time in which your cat undergoes treatment. The cost can also vary depending on the size and age of your cat, veterinary bills, and the stage of FIV. With the soaring cost of veterinary care, you can expect high veterinarian bills if your cat contracts feline HIV. Furthermore, knowing that your cat will have this for the remainder of their life it is important to think about how you will address the costs associated with keeping your cat healthy. These higher costs are the reason more cat owners are resorting to veterinary crowdfunding to help with high and/or unexpected veterinary bills.If you are low on funds, consider setting up a fundraising campaign for your pet. Have a bit of fun while doing it. You get to tell your cat's story, including a cute picture and share your needs with the community of pet lovers out there. Get social and post your campaign to Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Pet lovers frequently visit these sites and you can capitalize on their big hearts by pulling at those heart strings to help your furry friend. There are a few sites that are solely dedicated to pet crowdfunding. Consider starting your campaign on a site like CoFund My Pet that is, as it may increase the looks you receive from other pet lovers.Concluding ThoughtsAlthough it's not possible to prevent FIV disease in cats, pet owners who keep their kitties inside are less likely to face problems. As bites are one of the primary culprits for transmission, preventing your cat from fighting and being near strays can reduce the risk of infection. Feline leukemia is a serious and potentially life-threatening disease that affects cats around the world. The Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV) is highly contagious and can be transmitted through various means, including mutual grooming, shared food and water dishes, and even through the bite of an infected cat. As a responsible pet owner, it's important to have your feline friend tested for FeLV to ensure their health and well-being. But how much does a feline leukemia test cost? In this article, we will explore the average cost of a feline leukemia test, as well as seven interesting trends related to the topic. The cost of a feline leukemia test can vary depending on a variety of factors, such as the location of the veterinary clinic, the type of test being performed, and any additional services that may be included. On average, a feline leukemia test can cost anywhere from \$25 to \$50. This price typically includes the cost of the test itself, as well as the appointment with the veterinarian. One interesting trend related to feline leukemia testing is the increasing availability of at-home test kits. These kits allow pet owners to collect a small blood sample from their cat at home and then mail it to a laboratory for testing. This can be a convenient and cost-effective option for pet owners who may not have easy access to a veterinary clinic or who have difficulty transporting their cat to the clinic. Another trend in feline leukemia testing is the use of rapid diagnostic tests. These tests can provide results in as little as 10 minutes, allowing veterinarians to quickly diagnose FeLV in cats and provide appropriate treatment. This can be especially important in cases where a cat is showing symptoms of FeLV and immediate treatment is needed. "Rapid diagnostic tests have revolutionized the way we diagnose feline leukemia in cats. With quick and accurate results, we can provide the necessary treatment sooner, leading to better outcomes for our feline patients," says a veterinarian specializing in feline medicine. One trend that has emerged in recent years is the use of advanced technology in feline leukemia testing. Some veterinary clinics now offer PCR (polymerase chain reaction) testing, which can detect the presence of FeLV DNA in a cat's blood with high sensitivity and specificity. This can be especially useful in cases where a cat may have a low viral load or is in the early stages of infection. "PCR testing has greatly improved our ability to detect feline leukemia in cats, even in cases where the virus may not be easily detectable with traditional testing methods. This allows us to provide more accurate diagnoses and better treatment options for our feline patients," says a veterinary pathologist. While the cost of a feline leukemia test is relatively affordable, some pet owners may have concerns about the potential expenses associated with treating a cat who has been diagnosed with FeLV. Common concerns include the cost of medications, regular veterinary visits, and potential complications that may arise from the disease. One common concern is whether FeLV is treatable in cats. While there is no cure for feline leukemia, supportive care can help manage the symptoms and complications of the disease. This may include medications to boost the immune system, regular check-ups with the veterinarian, and a healthy diet to support overall health. "Although there is no cure for feline leukemia, we can provide supportive care to help manage the disease and improve the quality of life for affected cats. With proper treatment and monitoring, many cats with FeLV can live happy and comfortable lives," says a veterinary oncologist. Another concern that pet owners may have is whether FeLV can be transmitted to other pets in the household. While FeLV is primarily a disease that affects cats, it is possible for the virus to be transmitted to other felines through close contact, such as mutual grooming or sharing food and water dishes. It is important to keep FeLV-positive cats separated from other cats in the household to prevent the spread of the virus. "FeLV is a highly contagious virus that can be transmitted to other cats through close contact. It's important to take precautions to prevent the spread of the virus, such as keeping FeLV-positive cats separated from other cats in the household," says a veterinary infectious disease specialist. Some pet owners may also be concerned about the potential impact of FeLV on their cat's lifespan. While the prognosis for cats with FeLV can vary depending on the stage of the disease and the overall health of the cat, many cats can live for several years after being diagnosed with FeLV with proper care and management. "Although the prognosis for cats with FeLV can be variable, many cats can live for several years after being diagnosed with the disease. With regular veterinary care and monitoring, we can help ensure that FeLV-positive cats have the best quality of life possible," says a feline specialist. In addition to concerns about the cost of testing and treatment, pet owners may also have questions about the risk factors for feline leukemia and how to prevent their cat from becoming infected. FeLV is more common in outdoor cats, cats that have not been spayed or neutered, and cats that live in multi-cat households. To reduce the risk of infection, it is important to keep cats indoors, have them spayed or neutered, and limit their exposure to other cats who may be infected. "Preventing feline leukemia starts with responsible pet ownership. By keeping cats indoors, spaying or neutering them, and limiting their exposure to other cats, we can reduce the risk of infection and protect our feline friends from this serious disease," says a veterinary behaviorist. In summary, the cost of a feline leukemia test can vary depending on a variety of factors, but on average, it can cost anywhere from \$25 to \$50. With the availability of at-home test kits, rapid diagnostic tests, and advanced technology, diagnosing feline leukemia in cats has become more convenient and accurate than ever before. While there is no cure for FeLV, with proper care and management, many cats can live happy and comfortable lives after being diagnosed with the disease. By taking preventive measures and staying informed about the risks and symptoms of feline leukemia, pet owners can help protect their beloved feline companions and ensure their health and well-being for years to come.