

## Feline Leukemia/Feline Immunodeficiency Virus/Bartonella Testing Release Form

Feline Leukemia Virus (FLV) and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) are two viruses that can cause very serious disease in cats. Both viruses, once acquired by a cat, are lifelong infections, and can result in immune system suppression similar to the HIV virus in humans. These viruses are not transmissible to humans, but can be transmitted to other cats through bodily fluid (saliva, blood, urine). The viruses do not survive outside the cat for long, so direct contact with an infected cat is required for transmission.

Feline Leukemia Virus is more likely than FIV to be transmitted directly to a kitten by its mother; however, both viruses have been shown to be transmitted to kittens during pregnancy. FIV is more likely to be transmitted by bite wounds.

A vaccine for Feline Leukemia Virus has been available for many years. Because lifestyle changes are common in the first year of life and kittens are most susceptible to feline leukemia virus, a series of 2 vaccinations done 3-4 weeks apart is recommended for ALL kittens. A Feline Leukemia Virus test should be done before giving the vaccination. It is important to realize that no vaccine is 100% protective.

Reassessment of your cat's risk for Feline Leukemia and whether the vaccination is still necessary will be done at 1 year of age. A vaccine for FIV is currently available as well for those individuals at risk.

**We recommend that all cat owners know the FLV/FIV status of their cats.** We recommend testing all new cats (or cats with unknown FLV/FIV status) with a blood test. Since kittens under the age of six months can have both false positive and false negative results on the FIV test, results prior to this age should be verified with a retest after the age of six months. Also, since a cat recently infected with either virus can take up to 90 days to show up positive, any cat that has had an unknown history of exposure to other cats for less than this amount of time should be retested to verify results.

Bartonella is a bacteria that many cats carry. It is the bacteria that cause Cat Scratch Fever in humans. People get the disease through cat scratches, bites, cat's bodily fluids, or bite from fleas. Cats at greatest risk for carrying the bacteria are stray cats, shelter cats, cats that are or have been infected with fleas, and cats in multi-cat households. Although some cats do not show obvious clinical signs immediately, recurrent respiratory infections, inflammation of the eyes and gums, and sores in the mouth can result. Transmission of Bartonella can occur regardless of whether the cat is showing clinical signs or not.

**Unlike Feline Leukemia and FIV, Bartonella is treatable. Therefore, we recommend that all cats are tested for Bartonella and treated with antibiotics if positive.** This test is sent to a referral laboratory and takes 1-2 weeks to receive results.

I have read the above and (please check all that apply):

- I elect to have my cat tested for Feline Leukemia and FIV \$56.30
- I elect to have my cat tested for Bartonella \$95.00
- I decline having my cat tested for the above conditions and understand the risks associated with this decision.

Cat's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Owner Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call Wyllow Pet Hospital at (920) 885-4148