

Love your pet... love your vet

Protecting against feline leukaemia

Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV) is an infectious agent most commonly associated with the occurrence of tumours and anaemia in cats, but it can also cause disease by suppressing your cat's immune system. This will potentially leave your pet susceptible to a variety of other problems, which may then be more serious. This is similar to the problems seen in humans with the AIDS virus and in cats with Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

The good news is that the FeLV virus cannot survive for long in the environment, so spread of infection between cats is reliant on prolonged close contact. Transmitted in the blood and saliva when cats fight each other, or during grooming, the disease can take months or even years to develop with young cats and kittens particularly vulnerable.

Not long ago, feline leukaemia was both widespread and common. Thankfully, vaccination is gradually reducing the incidence of this disease, because there is no effective treatment to eliminate a FeLV infection. **We strongly recommend vaccinating your cat against FeLV, particularly if your cat may have a high risk of exposure to the virus – this includes your cat venturing outside or if it comes into contact with potentially infected individuals.**



If you think that your cat is at risk of feline leukaemia, please feel free to make an appointment with your vet for further advice. A full health check and advice on all your cat's healthcare requirements will be given at the same time.

Telephone the surgery on 698899 today to ensure your cat stays healthy for longer.

Disclaimer: The information and advice contained in this handout is for general information only. It is not intended to be a substitute for a veterinary examination and/or specific treatment or advice. You should always seek advice from your veterinary surgeon.

**Hillside Veterinary Centre 116 Wareham Road Corfe Mullen Wimborne BH21 3LH
t: 01202 698899 f: 01202 657400 e: mail@hillsidevets.co.uk**