



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Protect your cat from Feline Immunodeficiency Virus**

Cat owners are encouraged to keep their cats indoors to avoid contracting Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV).

Testing of tom cats captured in Biloela has revealed a high prevalence of FIV.

It is primarily found in the saliva of cats, meaning the most common source of FIV exposure for cats is a bite from an infected cat.

FIV is not easily spread from casual contact, so an infected cat grooming a non-infected cat is very unlikely to spread the disease. Sharing feed bowls and litter trays should not pose a high risk, however, cats getting into serious fights, where bites puncture the skin, are at high risk of contracting FIV.

The best way to prevent a cat from contracting FIV is to keep them indoors. As FIV is spread through bites, a cat kept exclusively indoors will be extremely unlikely to contract FIV. Cats most at risk of FIV (due to their propensity to fight) are male, entire and live mainly outside.

Cats with FIV are more likely than other cats to have dental and other oral tissue disease. Common diseases, wounds and infections can be more serious in positive cats.

They may have a shortened lifespan, succumbing ultimately to infections they can't fight off, to cancers or organ failure.

FIV is not transferrable to humans or other species.

To find out more about Feline Immunodeficiency Virus contact your family vet or visit:  
<https://bestfriends.org/resources/cats/fiv-and-felv-faqs>  
<https://www2.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/feline-immunodeficiency-virus>  
[http://kb.rspca.org.au/what-are-feline-immunodeficiency-virus-\(fiv\)-and-feline-leukaemia-\(felv\)-and-how-do-i-protect-my-cat\\_691.html](http://kb.rspca.org.au/what-are-feline-immunodeficiency-virus-(fiv)-and-feline-leukaemia-(felv)-and-how-do-i-protect-my-cat_691.html)