

AFTER CAT-FIGHT CARE

Feline AIDS information sheet

Your cat has been treated today for a cat-fight wound. You may not be aware that the potentially fatal feline disease, **Feline AIDS** or **FIV**, is spread by cats fighting. The FIV virus lives in cat saliva and is transferred between cats by bite wounds. The FIV virus develops into **Feline AIDS**, which causes a severely depressed immune system. Over time this results in a spectrum of illnesses including chronic infections, mouth ulcers and even cancers.

In Australia 1 in 5 cats are **FIV positive**.

Your cat may have contracted **Feline AIDS** during this recent cat fight. One bite from an **FIV positive** cat is all it takes for your cat to contract feline AIDS. To know whether or not your cat has contracted **Feline AIDS** we can perform a simple blood test. This test cannot be performed today because it takes approximately 3 months for the body to respond and produce the markers that can be detected by the blood test. In 3 months time the Para Hills Veterinary Clinic will contact you to arrange for you to return to the clinic for this blood test. It is a simple process to collect a very small amount of blood and run the test in-house. We can give you an answer in just 15 minutes.

If your cat is negative the best thing you can do for your cat is to vaccinate against **Feline AIDS**. There is no cure or successful treatment for **Feline AIDS**, only prevention. With a simple course of three-injections followed by annual booster vaccinations your cat can be protected against **Feline AIDS** for life.

If your cat is positive we can talk to you about keeping your cat healthy while living with the FIV virus and how to watch for progression to **Feline AIDS**.

If you have any questions regarding **Feline AIDS**, please don't hesitate to ask the **Para Hills Veterinary Clinic** staff.