

Pet's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**Southside  
Animal  
Hospital**

**929 South Hill Street  
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### **Your Cat's Combo Test**

The combo test is a simple blood test that test for presence of two deadly diseases in cats, Feline Leukemia Virus and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus. We recommend that any new cat being brought into the household or any sick cats should be tested for these viruses. We also recommend that outdoor cats be tested one time a year for these viruses.



**What is Feline Leukemia Virus?** Feline Leukemia Virus is a virus that destroys the immune system of the infected cat. Infected cats are more susceptible to infectious diseases and tumors. Some infected cats also get a wasting disease where they lose weight, quit eating, and go into a downward spiral that cannot be reversed. These cats also have a very difficult time fighting off other diseases due to the weakened immune system. Most infected cats live an average of 2 to 3 years after they become infected

with the virus. The virus is passed easily from cat to cat by casual contact. This can be by rubbing noses, grooming each other, fights, or using the same food dishes. The disease can also be passed from mother to kitten. If a cat has the virus, there is nothing we can do to get rid of the virus. The virus only affects cats. It is not contagious to dogs or people.

**What is Feline Immunodeficiency Virus?** Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV) is also a virus that decreases the immune system of cats. Cats with the virus are more susceptible to infectious diseases and tumors. Some cats also get a wasting disease as with leukemia. It is a milder virus than Feline Leukemia Virus. Infected cats live an average of 10 years after infection with the virus. FIV is spread by an infected cat biting another cat. If a cat is infected with the virus, there is no way to eliminate the virus in the cat. This virus only affects cats, and is not contagious to dogs or people.

**Can I prevent Leukemia in my cat?** If your cat is negative for feline leukemia, there is a vaccine available for this virus. The feline leukemia vaccination is very effective at preventing the virus. We recommend this as a core vaccination for all cats that are negative for this virus. Two doses of vaccines are given 3 weeks apart and then annually to provide protection against this virus.



**Can I prevent FIV in my cat?** The FIV vaccination is only recommended for animals that have a known exposure to the virus and have been tested negative for the virus. The FIV vaccine is 80% effective at preventing infection with the virus. The vaccine does make tests for the virus come up positive. If the vaccine is given to your cat and ends up going to another home, they must be informed that the vaccination was given to your cat. If not and they test the cat, they may mistakenly think the cat has the FIV virus. Three doses of vaccine are given at 3 week intervals and then given annually to provide protection.

**What if my cat is infected?** If your cat is infected with either of these viruses, we cannot get rid of the virus. Your cat will eventually die from the virus or a viral related disease. If you have other cats in your household, you will want to consider carefully if you want to expose them to these deadly diseases. If you do not want to expose them, you have the options of finding the cat a home where it would be the only cat or euthanasia of the cat. If you do not have other cats or decide to keep the cat, you should make the cat an indoor only cat. This limits the cat's exposure to diseases that could make the cat sick and keeps the cat from spreading the virus. We can also provide some immune system boosters to help the cat stay healthy.

**Your Pet's Result** \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Taken** \_\_\_\_\_

**Recommended Recheck** \_\_\_\_\_