

5 Myths of FIV+ Cats



- **Myth: FIV is a death sentence.** FIV-positive cats can live long and happy lives. With proper care, FIV+ cats can live normal lifespans of 12 to 18 years. Although FIV might weaken their immune system, regular vet checkups, an indoor lifestyle, and minimizing stress (such as providing enough litter boxes, especially in houses with multiple cats) can keep them healthy for many years.
- **Myth: It's highly contagious to other cats.** FIV+ and FIV- cats can live together safely. Casual contact between cats, like grooming, sharing litter boxes, and sleeping together, does not pose a significant risk to other cats.
- **Myth: Humans and dogs can catch FIV.** Nope, the reality is FIV is a cat-specific virus, so other pets, kids, and even people who are immunocompromised are in no way able to contract it.
- **Myth: FIV+ cats are constantly sick.** Being FIV+ means a cat is immunocompromised. They might take a little longer to recover from a cold or be more prone to dental issues, but they aren't perpetually ill.
- **Myth: They shouldn't be adopted.** FIV+ cats are often stuck in shelters and rescues, which is heartbreaking because they are often the sweetest-natured cats. There is no reason to overlook an FIV+ cat.