



Handout 1 - For owners taking on a kitten who initially tested positive for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) antibodies, but subsequently tested FIV

DNA negative on a confirmatory test.

Testing for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) in kittens can be complicated. Veterinary practice screening test kits detect antibodies to FIV, so a positive result means that antibodies to FIV have been detected.

In adult cats the presence of FIV antibodies means that the cat is infected with the FIV virus.

However, in kittens the presence of antibodies may only mean that they have some of their infected mother's antibodies from the milk, but not the virus itself. In fact, only around one third of kittens born of FIV positive mothers are FIV positive themselves.

Any Cats Protection kitten testing positive (for antibodies) on a screening test kit has a special (PCR) test done at a reliable external laboratory to identify whether there is any actual virus present or not.

The kitten you are adopting tested positive on a screening test, but negative on the PCR test.

This indicates that the kitten did have antibodies, likely from its (FIV positive) mother passed over in the milk but fortunately the follow up PCR test indicates the kitten does not carry the virus.

Should you or your vet require further information on FIV diagnostic testing, please contact Cats Protection on veterinary@cats.org.uk and see the Cats Protection Veterinary Guide 'FIV and FeLV'.

You can find more information about feline immunodeficiency virus on our website.
<https://www.cats.org.uk/help-and-advice/health/fiv-in-cats>



Handout 2 - For owners taking on an FIV negative kitten from an FIV positive mother

Feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) positive mother, but kitten tested negative

This kitten's mother was FIV positive. Fortunately, only one third of kittens born to FIV positive queens are FIV positive themselves. This kitten has tested negative on a veterinary practice screening test.

For more information, please refer to the Cats Protection Veterinary Guide 'FIV and FeLV.