



Association of Shelter Veterinarians

Management of Cats Who Test Positive for FeLV or FIV in Animal Shelters

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The Association of Shelter Veterinarians believes that the decision to euthanize a cat should not be based solely on the results of a single positive feline leukemia virus (FeLV) or feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) test. However, in animal shelters, holding cats for confirmatory testing may present a risk to individual and/or population health and welfare, and/or may be cost prohibitive. Shelters whose policy it is to euthanize based on the results of a single positive test should understand that a percentage of cats will test falsely positive.

Shelter management decisions should be made to optimize the overall health of the shelter population. Shelters that hold cats with positive FeLV or FIV screening tests are advised to follow the American Association of Feline Practitioners' recommendations regarding timing and choice of confirmatory testing.¹

Reference

1. Levy J, Crawford C, Hartmann K, et al: 2008 American Association of Feline Practitioners' feline retrovirus management guidelines. *J Fel Med Surg*,10:300-316, 2008.