The American Association of Feline Practitioners is initiating an educational campaign to increase the testing of cats for feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). The campaign will include television commercials, materials for other media such as newspapers and magazines, a website, and materials for veterinarians and staff. In addition, they have designed a form (see below) that cat owners can fill out and present to their veterinarians, to help their veterinarian determine what testing may be necessary. The new recommendations for testing cats for FIV and feline leukemia virus (FeLV) are summarized in the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>FIV</th>
<th>FeLV</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>During Sickness</td>
<td>When cats are sick, regardless of previous negative results. While many signs (such as fever, stomatitis, vomiting, and diarrhea) are obvious indicators of illness, other signs are subtle and may include changes in behavior, grooming, and eating habits.</td>
<td>Same as FIV, including sick cats that have been vaccinated for FeLV.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Adoptions</td>
<td>When cats and kittens (regardless of age) are newly adopted, whether or not they will be entering a household with other cats.</td>
<td>Same as FIV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-cat Households</td>
<td>When cats live in households with unknown FIV infection status. Infected cats can remain asymptomatic for years, during which time they may transmit the virus to uninfected cats.</td>
<td>Same as FIV when cats live in households with unknown FeLV status.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Potential Exposures</td>
<td>When cats have had potential exposure, such as a bite inflicted by a cat of unknown infection status. Such cats should be tested a minimum of 60 days post-exposure.</td>
<td>When cats have had known or possible exposure to other cats of unknown infection status (e.g., cats that go outdoors unsupervised). Periodic testing may be justifiable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Routine Testing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post-exposure</th>
<th>Adults are relatively resistant to FeLV infection.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Testing may be justifiable in cats at continued risk of exposure even though adults are relatively resistant to FeLV infection.</td>
<td>No recommendation at this time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Annually, when cats are at high risk of infection. Cats at high risk of infection include those that fight or those that live with FIV infected cats.

The following is a sample of a completed FIV and FeLV Observation Form. Click here if you would like to go to a blank form you can print out and use.

### FIV and FeLV Observation Form

**About Your Cat:**

**Name:** Morris  
**Age:** 6 Years  
**Sex:** Male  
**Is your cat neutered/spayed?** Yes  
**Geographic Location:** WI - Wisconsin 54501

**Observations:**

**How long ago was your last visit to your veterinarian?** 2 Years  
**Is your cat primarily an indoor cat or an outdoor cat?** Mostly indoor  
**Has your cat been vaccinated for FeLV?** Yes  
**Do any of these situations apply to your cat? Please check all that apply:**

- [x] Has been outside unsupervised  
- [ ] Was exposed to a cat with unknown FIV/FeLV status  
- [ ] Was in a fight with another cat  
- [x] Lives in a household with other cats of unknown FIV/FeLV status
| Lives in a household with a recently adopted cat | Was a stray or obtained from a shelter |

**Has your cat had any of these signs of illnesses? Please check all that apply:**

- [ ] Weight Loss | [X] Decreased appetite |
- [ ] Decreased grooming | [ ] Decreased energy or general weakness |
- [X] Vomiting | [ ] Diarrhea |
- [ ] Gingivitis (red, swollen gums) | [X] Pale gums |
- [ ] Mouth sores | [ ] Enlarged lymph nodes |
- [ ] Abscesses |

This form was developed by the American Association of Feline Practitioners.