**FIV-Positive Adoption Counseling Check List**

FIV is spread almost exclusively through deep, penetrating bite wounds from serious fighting. It is not spread through casual non-aggressive contact between cats or by swatting/scratching. Introductions to current or future resident cats should be handled carefully and slowly. Ensure adopters are prepared for introductions and that they recognize the potential risk if serious fighting occurs.

FIV-positive cats typically require more frequent dental cleanings and extractions than FIV-negative cats. They are also more vulnerable to skin problems, infections, and certain types of cancer. FIV-positive cats should receive veterinary exams twice per year. Adopters should be particularly alert to any signs of illness and consult a veterinarian as appropriate. FIV-positive cats may live long, healthy lives, but life expectancy varies.

FIV-positive cats are also more susceptible to stress-related illness. Owners should take reasonable steps to reduce potential stress during events like remodeling, moving, and other household changes.

Preventive care is particularly important. FIV-positive cats should eat a healthy diet (raw diets not recommended) and adopters should follow their veterinarian’s advice about vaccines and parasite prevention.

Private practice veterinarians vary widely in their knowledge about FIV and their approach to treating FIV-positive cats. CAT encourages adopters to develop a relationship with a veterinarian who is experienced with and knowledgeable about FIV.

The outdoors is especially dangerous for an FIV-positive cat because of the exposure to diseases and other dangers. A virus or parasite that another cat might effectively fight off could make an FIV-positive cat seriously ill. FIV-positive cats should be kept indoors.

CAT offers an FIV Wellness Certificate free with the adoption of an FIV-positive cat. Review certificate in detail with adopters.