



## Feline Forum

Courtesy of:

### How effective are the Feline Leukemia Virus Vaccines?

The feline leukemia virus (FeLV) vaccines are reasonably effective in preventing persistent feline leukemia infection should your vaccinated cat be exposed to the virus. However, no vaccine is 100 percent effective, and this is true for the FeLV vaccines. The immune response produced by these vaccines will protect most exposed cats from becoming infected with the virus.

#### Removing Cat Odors

The following hints will help you eliminate cat odors safely from the house:

✓ Chlorine bleach neutralizes odors and disinfects litter boxes. Use a dilution of 4 ounces of chlorine bleach to 1 gallon of water.

✓ Do not use Lysol for disinfecting litter boxes. The chemicals are toxic to cats.

✓ Treat urine-stained carpets immediately with a deodorizer and cleaning solution. If the padding underneath is soiled, it must be removed if the treatment is to be effective. If the stain occurs on concrete, clean the surface and then apply a sealer to the concrete.

The information for *Feline Forum* has been prepared by the Cornell Feline Health Center, Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine, Ithaca, NY. Copyright 1992.



Occasionally after exposure to the feline leukemia virus, a vaccinated cat will develop a transient viremia and be temporarily positive for FeLV for up to 12 weeks. However, the immune response produced by the vaccine will control the virus such that these cats will not develop clinical disease.

### Growing an Edible Garden for Cats

If gardening is one of your leisure activities you may want to grow a garden for your cat to enjoy.

When choosing plants for your cat's garden, choose non-toxic plants. Plants such as catnip, grasses (avoid using grasses from the Graminae species), and dwarf zinnias are plants that can be used for your edible garden. When purchasing seeds, be sure to select chemically untreated seeds. Chemicals such as Thiram and

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Captan are transported systemically as the seedling grows. These chemicals are potentially harmful if the cat consumes them when eating the foliage.

After selecting the plants you will use, draw a planting diagram. This insures that adequate growing space is provided and the plants are arranged attractively.

Do not let your cat have access to the garden until it is well established.

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