



FELINE BARTONELLA

Fleas are not only annoying to you and your cat, they can also spread disease that, if left untreated, may lead to serious medical problems. Fleas can be carriers of heartworms, tapeworms, Feline Infectious Anemia, and a bacteria called *Bartonella Henselae*.

When Bartonella bacteria invades your kitty's red blood cells, it can cause a disease called *Feline Bartonellosis*. Bartonellosis symptoms may include fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, gingivitis, enlarged lymph nodes, inflammatory skin conditions, changes in behavior, and tremors.

The Bartonella bacteria can affect your kitty's upper respiratory system, causing conditions such as sinusitis, rhinitis, and upper respiratory disease. It can also affect your kitty's eyes. Symptoms may include swollen or weepy eyes, eye infections, or damage to eye structures. In progressed stages, Bartonellosis can begin to attack the organs, causing conditions such as hepatitis and heart disease.

The Bartonella bacteria is *zoonotic* (communicable from pets to people), and has been linked to Cat Scratch Disease in humans. If an infected feline bites or scratches a human, the bacteria may be passed along.

We offer Bartonella testing at our office; if the presence of Bartonella bacteria is confirmed, typical treatment for your kitty is a 10- to 21-day course of antibiotics.

Effective flea control is key in helping to prevent initial infection, or reinfection, of the Bartonella bacteria. Your veterinarian can recommend the best flea preventative for your kitty. Typically these medications are applied topically once a month.

If your kitty is experiencing any of the symptoms noted above, please bring him or her to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam. And don't miss our great special offers this month!



KEEP MOTHER'S DAY SAFE FOR YOUR KITTIES

Mother's Day, May 12, is a special day to celebrate moms everywhere with gifts that may include flowers or candy. But some of these gifts can pose danger to your pets.



Did your children give you a beautiful floral bouquet? Please check it carefully for lilies. If your kitty ingests even the slightest bit of a lily (even a slight exposure to the pollen, leaves, or petals), it can cause significant changes in your kitty's kidneys, which may lead to kidney disease or complete kidney failure. It is important to seek immediate veterinary care if you believe your kitty has had any contact with lilies.

A number of other flowers and plants are toxic to your pet. For a list, please visit the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center at: www.asPCA.org/Pet-care/poison-control/Plants.

And that delicious box of chocolates? Be sure to keep all sweets safely out of reach of your pet, as large amounts of sugar can be extremely toxic to your furry family member.



MAY SPECIAL OFFER FOR OUR READERS

Through May 31, **receive \$25 off the regular cost of a Bartonella test when your kitty comes to the Sacramento Cat Hospital for a wellness exam.** Please give us a call for more information or to schedule your appointment.

We offer a number of great deals to help protect your kitty against fleas and their accompanying diseases and parasites. **The cost may be as little as \$8 per month!** Please speak with us about the parasite prevention program that's best for your cat.

Don't miss an issue of our newsletter! Sign up to receive each month's issue by email. To subscribe, just go to www.sacramentocathospital.com, or speak with one of our team members.