

ONTARIO SPCA AND HUMANE SOCIETY

Ontario's animal charity since 1873.

Disease Name:	Bartonellosis	
Agent:	Pleiomorphic gram negative bacterium	
Clinical Signs:	<p>Animals - Asymptomatic</p> <p>Humans - Painful, markedly swollen lymph nodes 1-3 weeks after exposure, may be accompanied by flu-like symptoms. Lesion resembling an insect bite at site or scratch/bite is common. Severe complications include meningitis and encephalitis.</p>	
Susceptible domestic species	Cats. Kittens at increased risk for transmitting disease, shelter cats at increased risk compared to other cats.	
Zoonotic?	Yes	
Diagnostic tests:	Blood culture	
Test sensitivity (false negatives)	Serology does not correlate with bacteremia, many seropositive cats will not be bacteremic, and 2% of seronegative cats can be bacteremic.	
Test specificity (false positives)	Excellent (specific SNAP test available)	
Vaccine available?	No	
Vaccine efficacy	No vaccine available	
Excreted in:	Transmitted by flea bites, cat to cat transmission (vector) does not occur in the absence of fleas.	
Mode of transmission:	Cat scratch or bite (direct), most likely transmitted by contaminated flea dirt inoculated into wound, other close contact with cats/fleas may transmit as well.	
Disinfection	Flea control, topical flea treatment and bathing, bites should be promptly and thoroughly cleaned with soap and water.	
Incubation	1-3 weeks	
Post recovery shedding	None	
Carrier state?	Yes	
Treatment	None required for cat. For people, disease is usually self-limiting except in those with compromised immune systems. Antibiotics required.	
PPE Required	Gloves for direct contact with blood. Flea control essential.	