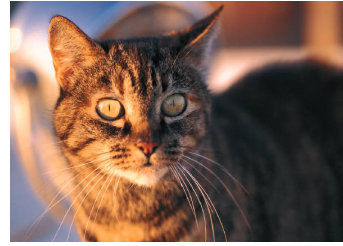


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### Feline Bartonella Disease

We have recently acquired new information about the disease known as “**Cat Scratch Fever**.” The bacteria is called *Bartonella*, and is primarily carried by cats. It is **potentially contagious to humans**, especially immune suppressed individuals (chemotherapy, kidney transplant, and elderly cats). Furthermore, we now know that this bacteria can contribute to many unresponsive diseases in the cat, such as chronic gum disease, persistent upper respiratory tract infections, liver disease, intermittent diarrhea, and others.

While there are many causes for these diseases, if *Bartonella* is identified it can be treated. There is now a blood test available for *Bartonella*. In recent studies, the majority of cats that were positive for bartonella and were treated with a special antibiotic for 3 weeks had complete resolution of long standing clinical signs.

Please call us with any questions regarding this matter. The recommendation was made to us that if you are concerned about the immune status of one of your family members then you should have your cat tested. **Cats can be a carrier of the organism for many years without having any clinical signs.**

Thank you,

**WELLINGTON VETERINARY CLINIC**