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Upper Respiratory Infection (Chlamydia) in Cats

Chlamydiosis in Cats

Chlamydiosis refers to a bacteria based chronic respiratory infection, caused by the *Chlamydia psittaci bacterium*. Cats that have developed this infection will often exhibit traditional signs of an upper respiratory infection, such as watery eyes, runny nose, and sneezing. With treatment, the *prognosis* is positive.

Symptoms and Types

Chlamydiosis infection affects the respiratory system, the eyes, the *gastrointestinal* system and the *reproduction* systems of animals. Cats experience standard *upper respiratory tract* symptoms, including:

- Sneezing
- Watery eyes
- Discharge from eyes
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Lack of appetite (anorexia)
- Fever
- Pneumonia, if left untreated

Causes

While there is a higher prevalence of the illness in certain breeds and ages. Cats that are kept in multi-cat households are at an increased risk of infection. As cats travel. Transmission can take place either directly from one infected animal, as the molecules from a cough or sneeze are carried by the air, or indirectly by touching a contaminated object, such as in a bed.



is present in all environments, as in a kennel, where this bacteria is often spread from an infected animal, as a caretaker can come in contact with a

Diagnosis

Your veterinarians will take a sample of conjunctival scrapings or swabbing, in order to have a sample of the source of the illness. If it is believed that the source will be performed to check for the presence of the bacteria.

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Treatment

Treatment is most often performed on an outpatient basis, starting with antibiotic medications such as tetracycline or doxycycline. Antibiotic treatments may be given orally or as an external direct application onto the eye. The entire treatment process may take up to six weeks.

Living and Management

The cat should be kept away from other animals until the infection heals, since it is communicable; it is also advisable to keep the cat indoors. If there are multiple animals in the household, they should all be treated to prevent another outbreak of the disease.

Prevention

There is no preventative measure that can be taken for this medical issue, but vaccinations can help to reduce the severity of outbreaks when they do occur.

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