

Atlanta Petz

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To celebrate, recognize and give back to our unconditionally loving friends: our pets

Happy, Healthy & Thriving in 2008

Plan **pet-friendly** get-aways
Pamper yourself and your pet
Consider **bringing**
your pet to **work**

Also inside:

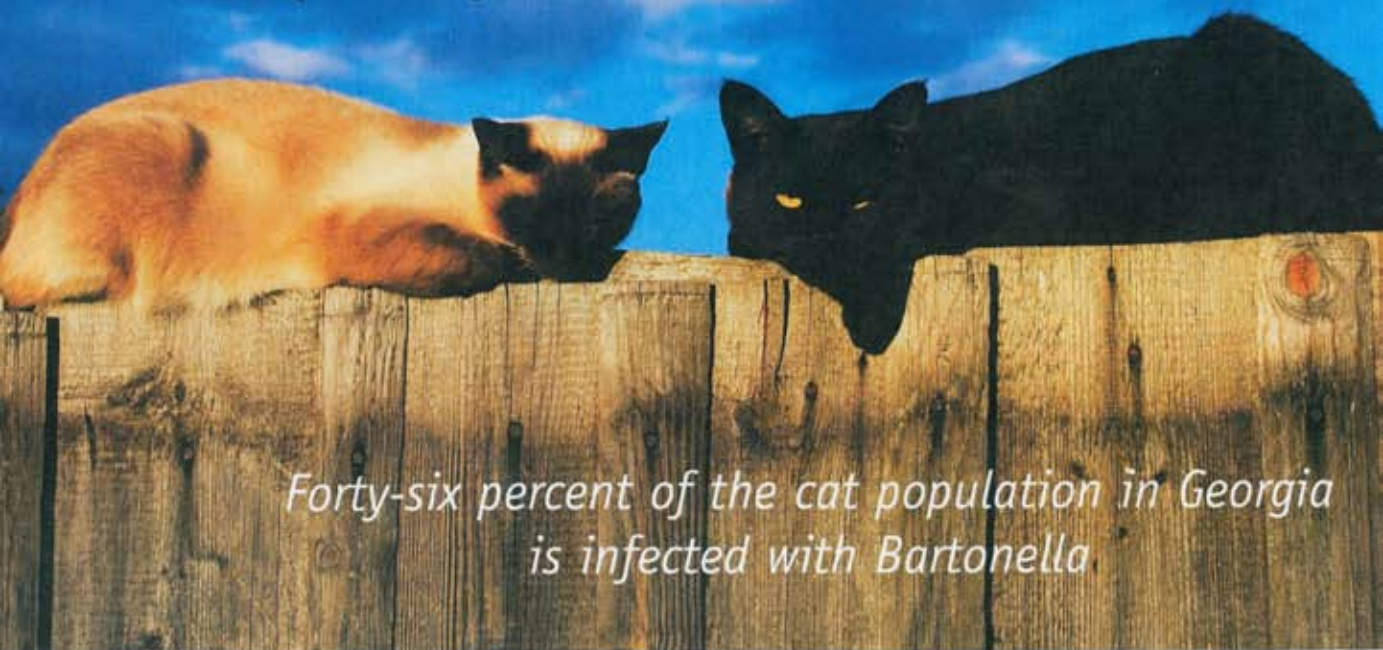
- What's new and must-haves
- Find your next pet through our Adoptables section
- Plus plenty of **tips** and **advice** for the people who love Pooches, Purrfect, Pocket, Feathered, Water and thoroughly Reput. . .able **Petz** of all shapes and sizes

www.AtlantaPetz.com



Feline Bartonella Disease

By Dr. Chad Hargett, DVM



Forty-six percent of the cat population in Georgia is infected with Bartonella.

Risk increases in multi-cat households or among outdoor cats that have had a flea infestation.

Feline Bartonella is bacteria that are carried primarily by fleas and ticks. Fleas, ticks and mosquitoes are extremely prevalent in hot and humid weather. Georgia has a perfect environment for all sorts of critters, and it has one of the highest incidents of flea infestation among our canine and feline companions in the United States. According to studies performed by the National Veterinary Laboratory, 46% of the cat population here in Georgia is infected with Bartonella.

Bartonella is bacteria that can induce an inflammatory response to a wide array of tissues in the infected feline body. Some of the body's responses can cause dental disease, upper respiratory infections, conjunc-

tivitis, gastrointestinal upset, dermatitis, hair loss, and changes in organ and glandular function. This is not only a concern for pet owners for their pet's long-term health, but the bacteria are easily transmitted to humans.



Could I get infected?

Cat Bartonella infection is easily spread to humans through bites, scratches, and fur contact of an infected cat and can cause over 20 human diseases, including "Cat Scratch Disease" to name one of many. More than 22,000 cases of Human

Bartonella Disease occur in the United States each year. Human illness can vary from infection of the skin, lymph nodes, or even brain abscesses! Anyone with children, or senior citizens and people who have a

Visit Dr. Chad Hargett, DVM, at Johns Creek Veterinary Clinic:
10540 Medlock Bridge Road, Duluth, GA 30097 or call 770-623-8387. www.johnscreekvet.com

Because cat Bartonella infection is easily spread to humans, anyone with children should seriously consider testing their cats.



compromised immune system should seriously consider testing their cat(s) or kitten(s).

Could my cat have Bartonella?

Risk tends to increase in cats that at one point or another have had fleas. Cats that are indoor-outdoor, strays, multi-cat house holds and any cat that is not on prevention and lives in a hot and humid area is more at risk. In a multi-cat household or among outdoor cats that have a flea infestation, fleas will go from cat to cat and infect themselves in a vicious cycle between cats and fleas. Some cats carry the bacteria and go unnoticed by their owners for years.

Should I test my cat or kitten?

Since Bartonella can cause serious illness in your kitty and can potentially affect your health, we highly recommend having every kitten tested. Even if your cat shows no signs of illness, we recommend testing. It is a simple blood test. We receive results in about a week and treatment is available.

What happens if my cat tests positive?

According to the National Veterinary Laboratory, we treat all our infected cats with a 21-day

course of antibiotics. They also recommend retesting six months after treatment to confirm that the infection is under control and your cat is not infectious.

Johns Creek Veterinary Clinic

can help in determining and assessing your cat's and or kitten's health through regular visits, effective flea and tick prevention, and testing. We recommend that all cats, regardless of age or health condition, be tested for Bartonella. 🐾