

Bacterial Infections in Cats

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ABOUT THE STUDY

Because of various exposures and several modes of disease transmissions, your cat can get many bacterial infections. As a responsible pet owner, it is important for you to know some common infections that your cat can easily get. A bacterium is a single cell organism that grows with multiple cell divisions. Harmful bacteria can cause severe illness and infection in cats. If left untreated cats will develop major health complications, just like humans. There are a number of bacteria that can lead to infections. The most common ones are *Pyodermas*, *Staphylococcus*, *Actinomyces*, *Spirochete*, *Fusobacterium*, *Clostridium*.

SYMPTOMS

The symptoms and signs of bacterial infections in cats are always infection specific. While a streptococcal infections result in pain and fever, surface bacterial infections can result in inflammation, redness, and discomfort. Here are some common symptoms of bacterial infection in cats are fever, skin abscesses, indigestion and lack of appetite, skin lesions and wound infections, coughing and runny nose, red and runny eyes, constant vomiting, multiple infections, including skin, eyes, ears, upper respiratory tract and urinary tract, skin inflammation and redness, pain and lethargy, lameness, open fractures and pus oozing from the wounds.

DIAGNOSIS

Health exam

Veterinarians will check your cat's health through a physical examination and review his medical history and symptoms for initial diagnosis.

Blood work

If required, they will suggest some blood tests, skin biopsies, sensitivity testing and cultures for your cat, too. These tests are performed to determine the cause of bacterial infections and diagnose the disease.

Additional tests

It may be necessary to perform some additional tests in order to rule out any other conditions in your cat.

TREATMENT

Depending on the type of bacterial infection, its causes, and your cat's health condition, the veterinarian will decide the treatment option for your cat. The chief aim of bacterial infection treatment is to clear the infection.

Antibiotics-In most cases of bacterial infections, your cat may need some antibiotic treatments. These prescribed antibiotics should be given to your cat per the veterinarian's instruction. The antibiotic and dosage is determined based on your pet's overall health and infection. Sometimes, your veterinarian may put your cat on a long-term antibiotic treatment plan. It is essential to do the entire course and until the symptoms have passed. The infection can return even worse than before if your cat has a small amount of bacterial infection remaining.

Topical Medication-For skin bacterial infection and secondary symptoms, your veterinarian may prescribe some topical drugs and medications. These ointments help to reduce inflammation, skin redness, teary eye and runny nose symptoms and pus formations. Certain shampoos may be prescribed to relieve skin itching and inflammation in case of a major bacterial skin infection.

Fever and Pain Medication-If your cat has a fever and body pain, his specific treatment plan may include pain relievers and fever medication too.

Specific Treatment Plans-Specific treatment plans are often prescribed for cats with unusual symptoms while having a bacterial infection. Your veterinarian will decide if your cat requires a specific treatment plan depending on the level of infection he has. In some cases, the veterinarians also perform a minor surgery to anesthetize the cat in order to clean and drain the infectious liquid from a deep bone wound.

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