

Bobcat Fever

General Information

Bobcat Fever is:

- Tick-borne disease that is transmitted through tick bites
- A blood parasite
- Primarily passed to cats through Lone Star tick

Lonestar Tick



- Symptoms don't usually appear until 12 days after tick bite
- Cat usually dies 2-3 days after symptoms if no immediate intervention
- Rapid diagnosis and treatment is needed
- No vaccine is available
- The only effective way to prevent bobcat fever is to keep your cat indoors and on tick prevention
- All cats regardless of indoor or outdoor need to be on tick prevention year round
- Treat inside house and yard (outside of house, grass, trees and bushes) for fleas and ticks
- Found in 23 states
- Usually seen March – September
- Cats that recover from the disease may become carriers

Symptoms

1. High temperature (104 – 106°F)
2. Drink only small amounts of water
3. Lethargic – sleeping all day – change in daily routine – likes to go outside but stays inside and sleeps
4. Decreased Appetite - Refuses normal diet, even wet cat food
5. Anemia - Pale gums
6. Jaundice (yellow discoloration to the skin due to a build-up of bilirubin in the blood)
7. Temperature may drop drastically before death

Treatment Protocol (if caught in early stages)

- a) Physical exam
- b) Blood work
- c) Urine analysis
- d) Tick Panel
- e) Treat with combinations of antimalarial and antimicrobial medication
- f) Intensive hospitalization
 - a. IV fluids hydration and electrolyte balance
 - b. IV nutrients
 - c. Oxygen supplementation

Note: Generally, antibiotics are not effective

References

Oklahoma State University Center for Veterinary Health Sciences