Feline Specialties

Newsletter

August 2016

Deadly to Cats. Carried by Ticks.

Cytauxzoon felis, also known as bobcat fever, is a blood parasite that infects domestic cats and has a very high (>90%) death rate. It is transmitted via the bites of infected ticks. Bobcats are the natural host and usually only have mild symptoms. It is when an infected tick bites our domestic cats that the real trouble begins.

Infected cats show signs 1 to 3 weeks after being bitten by an infected tick. A cat may be infected even if you don't see a tick on the animal, because the tick may have already fed and dropped off the cat before the animal starts showing signs of the disease. Cats become extremely ill when infected—the organism infects red blood cells, liver, lung, spleen and lymph nodes. The signs of disease include sudden listlessness, loss of appetite, anemia, difficulty breathing, high fever and jaundice—yellow coloring of skin, gums and the whites of eyes. Most cats die in less than 14 days from the time symptoms start.

Jaundice of the skin in a cat infected with Cytauxzoon felis

The diagnosis of cytauxzoonosis is based on the history of tick exposure, physical exam, and finding the organism in red blood cells examined microscopically. A polymerase chain reaction (PCR) blood test is also being used.

Until recently, there has been no known effective treatment. The combination of the anti-malarial drug, atovaquone, and the antibiotic, azithromycin has shown much promise in the treatment of cytauxzoonosis with survival rates

up to 60%. Unfortunately, treatment is expensive with 40% of the cases still being fatal. It is also possible that a cat who recovers may be a carrier of the disease.

Because there is no cure, tick prevention is extremely important. Many products labeled for tick control on dogs can be toxic to cats. Seresto, a flea and tick collar made by Bayer has shown to be effective against both fleas AND ticks and lasts up to 8 months. This would protect a cat throughout the tick season. Feline Specialties is excited to be carrying this product and to be protecting cats from deadly cytauxzoonosis!

Seresto®

The Sustained Release Technology in Seresto® kills and repels fleas and ticks for 8 months in an easy-to-use, odorless, non-greasy collar.
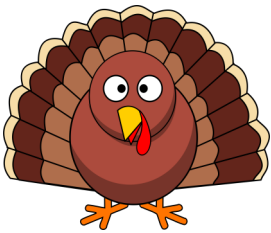
Meet Dr. Andy Roark

Meet Dr. Andy Roark, our "internet vet". Dr. Roark is the host of a humorous, educational YouTube show called the Cone of Shame . Click on the link below to see his episode "5 Simple Steps You Need for a Stress Free Cat." That's CAT not BAT!

https://youtu.be/ghpR2fV4N1U

Project Complete

Our boarding expansion is now complete! We are happy to announce we have 10 more beautiful rooms ready for your kitty to enjoy while you are away. Please remember, though, to book early for the holidays. ESPECIALLY, Christmas and Thanksgiving.

The Person Behind the Face

Joseph Clinton is one of our Veterinary Assistants and has been with Feline Specialties since August of 2015. Joseph graduated from Davis High School and attended Veterinary Technician School in 2009. His interest in a career with animals began in high school, where he was vice president of FFA. He actively showed cattle and won several awards, including showmanship of grand champion heifers. His hobbies include interior design and playing with his 2 cats & 2 dogs. Joseph aims to later further his education by obtaining a degree in Business.

Hospital Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am- noon

Sunday 9:00am—9:30am for drop offs and pick ups

9702 Riverside Dr.

Contact Information

Phone (918) 299-8222   www.felinespecialties.com   Fax (918) 299-8199

E-mail for general information: info@felinespecialties.com

E-mail for Dr. Zinn: jzinn@felinespecialties.com

E-mail for Dr. O'Cain: jocain@felinespecialties.com

Emergency Information

For after hours emergency contact:

Oklahoma Veterinary Specialists (OVS)

(918) 299-4900

1501 west 78th Street S

Animal Emergency Clinic (AEC)

(918) 665-0508

4055 S 102nd E AVE (west of highway 169 at the 41st Street exit)