

Diagnostic path for *Bartonella* spp. infections in dogs

(*B. henselae*, *B. vinsonii* subsp. *berkhoffii*)



CLINICAL FINDINGS

Clinical history

- Recurrent fever
- Weight loss
- Chronic fatigue
- Flea infestation
- Tick infestation
Rhipicephalus sanguineus
Ixodes spp.
Dermacentor spp.
- Cat scratches/bites

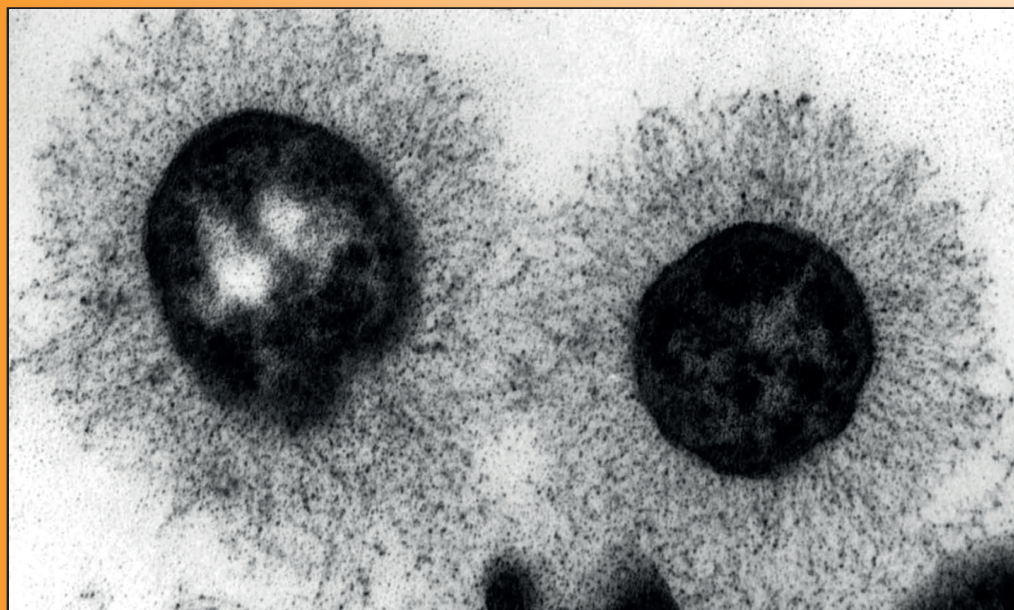
Major clinical signs

- Anorexia
- Endocarditis
- Myocarditis
- Hepatitis
- Lameness/Polyarthritis
- Epistaxis
- Lymphadenomegaly

Key clinical pathological findings

Hematology	Low	Normal	High
Lymphocytes			
Monocytes			
Platelets			
Neutrophils			
Biochemistry	Low	Normal	High
Globulins			
Urine	Low	Normal	High
Proteinuria			

FURTHER DIAGNOSTIC TESTS



Electron microscopic photos

Serology

- IFA-IFAT using *B. henselae* antigens
- IFA-IFAT using *B. vinsonii berkhoffii* antigens
- No cross-reaction between *Bartonella* spp.
- May cross-react *Coxiella* and *Chlamydia*

PCR

- Most sensitive method
- Combination with blood culture increases sensitivity
- Triple blood (sequential) testing increases sensitivity

CAUTION: Frequent co-infection with tick-transmitted pathogens (*Ehrlichia*, *Babesia*, *Borrelia*, *Rickettsia* spp.). Potential predisposition due to immunosuppressive effects of *Bartonella* infections.

THERAPEUTIC CONSIDERATIONS

Doxycycline, enrofloxacin, rifampin

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- Compliant year-round flea and tick control
- Testing cats for *Bartonella* infection in the household