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## ***Bartonella:*** **Cat Scratch Disease**

- *Bartonella* are bacteria that are found in many animals including Beluga whales, horses, cattle, sheep, deer, rodents, dogs, cats and people. They are transmitted between animals by fleas, ticks, and sand flies.
- *Bartonella* can cause long lasting infections and chronic inflammatory diseases in cats, dogs and people.
- Human *Bartonella* diseases are mainly caused by infections from cats. The most well known disease is Cat Scratch Disease.
- Cats: there are 80 million pet cats in the country and about one-third are infected chronic carriers of *Bartonella*.
- Cats infect people via scratches, bites or contact and playful kittens, under 1 year of age, are most likely to infect people.
- Immunosuppressed people- cancer patients, transplant recipients and the elderly over 65 are more susceptible to develop severe *Bartonella* diseases.
- This hospital can test your cat, at any age, for *Bartonella* infection by a simple blood test.
- Treatment: *Bartonella* infected cats can be successfully treated with antibiotics to eliminate their infection and render them safe pets.
- Information is power: ask your veterinarian about *Bartonella*.