



## **CHLAMYDIOSIS IN CATS.**

This infection can be found in cats of all ages and breeds, although there is a higher prevalence in kittens,

Cats that have developed this infection will often exhibit traditional signs of an upper respiratory infection, such as watery eyes, runny nose, and sneezing.

### **What Causes It**

Chlamydia is a chronic respiratory infection, caused by the *Chlamydia psittaci* bacterium.

### **How is it Transmitted**

Transmission can take place even without direct contact with an infected animal, as a cough or sneeze can travel across a room. People can also carry the bacteria and spread it by touch, or the cat may come into contact with a contaminated object, such as bedding, feeding utensils or in feeding areas.

### **Which Cats Are At Risk?**

Cats that are kept in crowded conditions with other animals, such as in a cattery, are at an increased risk of infection. Added to the risk is the ease with which this bacteria travels.

### **Signs and Symptoms.**

The most common signs are:-

Chlamydia, affects the respiratory system and the eyes and can affect the gastrointestinal system and the reproduction systems of animals.

Cats experience standard upper respiratory tract symptoms, including:-

- Sneezing
- Watery eyes
- Discharge from eyes
- Coughing
- Difficulty breathing
- Runny nose
- Lack of appetite (anorexia)

- Fever
- Pneumonia, if left untreated

### **Diagnosis**

Diagnosis will involve your veterinary surgeon taking a swab of the eye discharge, in order to have a culture done to determine the source of the illness.

If it is believed that pneumonia is present, an X-ray of your cat's lungs could be taken, to check for the presence of fluid.

### **Treatment**

Treatment usually starts with antibiotic medications such as tetracycline or doxycycline. Antibiotic treatments may be given orally or as an external direct application onto the eye. The entire treatment process may take up to six weeks.

With treatment, the prognosis is positive.

### **Prevention.**

There is no preventative measure that can be taken for this medical issue, but vaccinations can help to reduce the severity of an outbreak should it occur.

Because, it is infectious, any infected cat should be kept away from other animals and kept indoors, until the infection heals.

If there are more than one cat in the home, it is advisable to treat them all to avoid them developing the disease.

**Prevention** is covered fully in the "PREVENTION OF DISEASES IN CATS" section above