

Q Fever

Q fever is caused by *Coxiella burnetii* (Cb). Disease can be tick-borne, but most cases result from inhaling Cb-containing dust. Cattle, sheep and goats are the primary reservoirs.



Symptoms include high fevers up to 105°F, severe headache, malaise, myalgia, chills and/or sweats, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, chest pain, and may include endocarditis, encephalitis, pneumonia, hepatitis, splenomegaly.

Acute symptoms include hepatitis and pneumonia or chronic endocarditis.

IFA titers are used for diagnosis. Usually treated with doxycycline. Ticks that transmit Q fever include *Amblyomma americanum* (lone star tick) and *Dermacentor andersoni* (Rocky Mountain wood tick).

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